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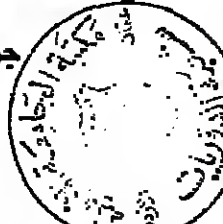
### Hamas has secretly set up party

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The militant group Hamas has secretly set up the nucleus of a political party, apparently in a first step towards competing in planned Palestinian elections, according to an internal Hamas memo obtained Wednesday. A possible Hamas decision to challenge the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the ballot box rather than through violence could remove a major threat hanging over Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts. According to the two-page document obtained by the Associated Press, Hamas has set up the core of a party, but is split over whether to make its formation public now or wait until it has negotiated the terms of political participation with the PLO-led Palestinian National Authority. "The issue of the political party for the movement has taken up a large part of our daily concern," said the Aug. 28-dated memo issued by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. "We have formed a preparatory committee and the brothers are doing their work. They have formed a political bureau and chosen its members," the document said. The memo, said the names of the party's leaders were being kept secret out of security concerns, but did not explain further.

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### Iraqi exiles call off London meeting

DUBAI (AFP) — The Iraqi opposition has called off a planned meeting in London that was to discuss the defection of former Iraqi Minister Hussein Kamel, opposition groups said Wednesday. Masaban Al Juburi, representing a tribe that was once a powerful backer of President Saddam Hussein, told AFP that not enough opposition figures agreed to attend the meeting scheduled for Saturday. Several other groups also said the meeting had been cancelled. A cousin of the defector on Monday denied a report from Mr. Juburi that General Kamel, the architect of Iraq's advanced weapons programme, was to present his political platform in a recorded message to the opposition meeting. Opposition groups have expressed doubts about Gen. Kamel's commitment to democracy in Iraq. "Gen. Kamel is a symbol of the repression in Iraq and he has not asked forgiveness for his crimes," said Hamed Bayati, the London representative of a Shiite group, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. The former minister defected to Amman on Aug. 8 with his brother, Saddam Kamel and their wives, both daughters of the president, along with a group of around 15 relatives and friends.

### Exiled Senussi urges Qadhafi's fall

CAIRO (AFP) — The exiled crown prince of Libya, Mohammad Al Hassan Al Senussi, on Wednesday called for Muammar Qadhafi to quit power. The nephew of King Idris, deposed in 1969 coup, called on "Libya's neighbours to put pressure on Qadhafi to leave power (so that) we can hold elections... and so secure a safe and secure future for our nation." He urged the United Nations to "freeze all the assets of those who deal with Qadhafi" and to impose oil sanctions on Libya to dry out its coffers. Prince Senussi, 33, fled to London in 1988 after living under house arrest in Libya since his uncle's overthrow. He also accused Egypt in his statement of "duplication" by helping Libya despite international sanctions imposed in 1992. "Egypt is now one of Qadhafi's closest allies," he charged. "I am giving notice to Egypt to take their hands off my country's wealth."

### Turkish forces kill 10 rebel Kurds

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkish security forces have killed 10 Kurdish rebels in clashes in southeastern Turkey, regional security officials said on Wednesday. The emergency rule governor's office, based in Diyarbakir, said the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas were killed in three different clashes in Hakkari and Bitlis provinces on Tuesday. It said seven of the guerrillas were killed in Isiklar village and Altidaglar Mountain in Hakkari province and the other three were killed in Agacdere village in Bitlis province.

### Cannabis fields go up in smoke

BEIRUT (AFP) — Syrian and Lebanese security forces destroyed 1.25 hectares of cannabis in a remote area of the eastern Bekaa Valley on Wednesday, police reported. The Lebanese anti-narcotics agency monitored the destruction of the cannabis on three separate plantations 70 kilometres northeast of Baalbek in the Syrian-controlled valley. Foreign Minister Fares Bouze, meanwhile, urged international aid donors to keep their promise to help rehabilitate the Baalbek-Hermel region where drug production flourished during the 1975-1990 civil war. Together with Agriculture Minister Shawk Fakhuri, he made the appeal at a meeting with diplomats from 12 Arab and Western countries, including Japan, Australia, France, Germany and Saudi Arabia. Around 20 countries have pledged \$34 million to help Lebanon stem out the cultivation of cannabis and poppies from the Bekaa since a campaign to eradicate illicit drugs was launched in 1991.

### Israeli to sing Arab hits in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — In a reflection of gradual rapprochement between Israelis and Palestinians, a Moroccan-born Israeli whose Hebrew versions of Arabic songs have made her a star among both Jews and Arabs is planning to perform in Gaza next week. "It's my first time there and I'm very excited," said Zehava Ben of her planned concert before a Palestinian audience in Gaza City — the first such show by an Israeli artist. "I have a lot of admirers there and I receive many letters and telephone calls from them," she told Israel TV. Singing Middle Eastern style songs in ululating Arabic and Hebrew, the 24-year-old Ben is popular in the Arab World and bootleg tapes of her songs are common in Gaza. She was to be accompanied by 24 Gazan musicians in a programme featuring the songs of legendary Egyptian singer Um Kulthum.

## French nuclear test sets off explosions of world protest

### Paris reiterates resolve to conduct more

Combined agency dispatches  
FRANCE FELL the full blast of international fury Wednesday after the first of a series of nuclear tests at Mururoa atoll set off explosions of protest across the world.

Governments from Europe, to Latin America and the Asia-Pacific joined the outcry after a low-yield device was exploded deep under the French Polynesian atoll at 2130 GMT Tuesday in defiance of international opinion.

President Jacques Chirac told his cabinet France would show "absolute firmness" throughout its nuclear test series while Prime Minister Alain Juppe dismissed the protests as bordering "on hysteria."

Defence Minister Charles Millon called it an "initiative for peace, an initiative for independence," but other French politicians slammed the government.

Dominique Voynet, leader of France's Green party, accused Mr. Chirac of "holding in contempt" the peoples of the South Pacific, while former socialist trade minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn called the decision to resume tests "certainly a political error, but also a moral error."

Greenpeace called for a series of protests across

France late Wednesday, including a major demonstration at the Place de la Bastille in Paris. The opposition Socialist Party called on its supporters to join the protest demonstration.

The leading nuclear powers, the United States and Russia, expressed regret over the tests, although China, which recently carried out its own test, continued to remain silent on the issue.

"All of the nuclear weapon states agreed at the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review and extension conference in New York in May 1995 to exercise 'utmost restraint' in nuclear testing pending the entry into force of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty," a White House statement said.

Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Mr. Chirac must have "a devil's heart" for allowing the resumption of nuclear testing and Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama urged France never to repeat its test, but his government ruled out recalling its ambassador.

Australian unions banned work on Air France planes for 24 hours, while Prime Minister Paul Keating called the test an "act of stupidity" and the foreign ministry summoned the French ambassador.

The test deep beneath

Mururoa atoll on Tuesday churned up whitecaps inside the lagoon and sparked cheers and applause among technicians who set off the charge to check computer simulation.

Norwegian Legislator Hilde Johnson watched their reaction, and said: "Clapping after you've fired off an atomic bomb which destroys the environment and destroys the health of people for thousands of years is terrible and unbelievable."

"We are not testing bombs," the military commander on Mururoa, General Paul Vericel, told a news conference at Mururoa. "We are testing nuclear physics."

The blast equalled less than 20,000 tonnes of TNT, the French defence ministry announced. By comparison, the atomic bomb that destroyed Hiroshima was equal to about 15,000 tonnes of TNT.

The Australian seismological centre in Canberra estimated the blast at about 8,000 tonnes of TNT, or eight kilotonnes. Later tests of a new warhead, however, could be to 150,000 tonnes, French media reported.

Activists protested in Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia 1,200 kilometres northwest of Mururoa. An Australian member of parliament, Peter

Knott, and a Japanese protester were arrested Tuesday for joining a demonstration outside the territorial president's office.

Up to seven more tests are planned before the end of May in an effort to develop simulation and test a new warhead. President Chirac said hours before the first test Tuesday that France could stop early if enough information is gathered from the first tests.

Meanwhile, 14 ships carrying environmental protesters continued surrounding Mururoa, and two protesters — former British commandos — were arrested after making it through tight French security and reaching the atoll. One had spent the night there.

The flotilla did not detect any sign of the test, and most participants knew nothing about it until they heard radio reports.

Audrey Cardwell, a Greenpeace activist aboard the schooner Manutea, said the crew was preoccupied by three French warships which were circling it and several other small yachts in the protest flotilla around the test site.

Greenpeace would not say what it was likely to do next. Protests were crippled Friday when the French navy

(Continued on page 7)



Anti-nuclear activists stage a "die-in" in front of the French consulate in Maabattan (AFP photo)

## Parliament approves 3% hike in sales tax

### Sharif Zeid promises 10% salary increase

AMMAN (J.T.) — Parliament on Wednesday approved a three per cent increase in sales tax to make up for government losses resulting from the reduction of income tax and customs duty.

The vote came after Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker reiterated that his government would offer a 10 per cent hike in the salaries of civil servants.

The legislation, which increases the sales tax to 10 per cent on all imported and locally manufactured goods as well as services, will take effect after His Majesty King Hussein endorses it with a Royal Decree.

The new sales tax is expected to bring JD 30 million annually into the treasury, which stands to lose a similar

amount as a result of tax reductions aimed at promoting foreign investment.

Parliament is debating a new Income Tax Law, reducing the amount of money private businesses and individuals were having to pay.

Two other bills designed to attract foreign capital and make Jordan more attractive for businessmen have been submitted to Parliament and are likely to be approved before the end of the month.

The government is seeking to enact the economy-related bills before the Middle East and North Africa summit to be held in Amman on Oct. 29-31.

The Sales Tax Law was passed by 47 votes from among the 71 members of the

80-seat Parliament who attended the session.

In his address to the House, Sharif Zeid reminded the deputies of his earlier announcement in the previous session dedicated to discussing supply policies that the government was committed to raise the salaries as of the beginning of 1996. The government is currently involved in a study on the salary scales and hopes that it will honour its commitment by the start of next year, he said.

In the earlier session the prime minister said that the government was working on providing a dignified life for its employees through salaries, incentives and retirement and social security benefits.

## Universities need extra fees to raise number of seats -- Saoud

### Deputies suggest varying solutions to address gap in supply and demand for chances in higher education

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government said Wednesday any increase in the number of students admitted at state-run universities should be coupled with an increase in fees.

Minister of Higher Education Rateb Saoud told the Lower House of Parliament during a special session that the universities suffer from financial difficulties and need additional revenues in order to widen the base of admission. The minister was referring to wide criticisms over the large gap between the seats available and the number of applicants.

"If we examine the universities' budgets closely we find that they suffer from a real crisis," said Dr. Saoud, also a member of the House.

Solving the problem "necessitates an in-depth study rather than reacting emotionally," he said. The government is concerned and intends to come up with a radical and long-term solution that would benefit all," added the minister, who was speaking on behalf of the Council for Higher Education.



Rateb Al Saoud

"There is no escape from the need to provide the adequate funds to enable (the universities) to perform their role properly," he said.

Some lawmakers agreed with the minister while others raised questions over various problems related to education and admission standards in the Kingdom.

Al Ahd Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali, speaking on behalf of the 15-member Al Ahd Bloc, said that students who can afford it should pay the "real" fees.

He said that all students, rich and poor, were benefiting from the financial support offered by the government, which he estimated at more than two thirds of the total expenses of the universities.

"Why would (we let) rich parents pay thousands of dinars to educate their children abroad while they hardly pay a couple of hundred dinars as fees at a Jordanian university?" He said. "Isn't it fair to ask the rich people to pay for all the expenses (paid by the government) and grant the poor special scholarships?"

While lawmakers had different views about the best ways to overcome the problem, they were unanimous in calling on the government to amend the admission policies of state-run universities to go hand in hand with the increasing number of students.

Most of the deputies — centrists, leftists and Islamists — agreed on the need for evening shifts at the universities. But they differed over the quota system, or the Royal endowment, that allocates seats for students from the "less fortunate" regions, or remote areas.

(Continued on page 7)

## NATO hammers Serbs, continues to talk tough

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) blasted Bosnian Serb military targets east and west of Sarajevo on Wednesday but spared units still dug in close to the Bosnian capital to give them time to pull out, in compliance with U.N. demands.

French and American fighter-bombers using laser-guided bombs and rockets took out ammunition dumps and a radio control centre in three strikes unleashed after heavy weather cleared. NATO's southern command said.

U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith said French Mirage and U.S. F-16s and F-15s bombed an ammunition dump at Visegrad, east of Sarajevo near the border with Serbia, a radio control centre at Bosnian Serb military headquarters at Han Pijesak and an ammunition dump at Hadzici, west of Sarajevo.

search and rescue operation was continuing for the recovery of two French Mirage crewmen who ejected last week after their plane was shot down by a Serb missile. Bosnian Serb sources say the fliers were captured.

In Zagreb, U.S. peace envoy Richard Holbrooke, continuing his hectic shuttle diplomacy with a briefing for Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, denied that Washington was trying to bomb the Bosnian Serbs to the negotiating table.

"This has nothing to do with peace negotiations, it is related to the U.N.'s attempt to enforce its mandate... if it affects the negotiations, that's not its intent," Mr. Holbrooke told reporters in Zagreb.

In Sarajevo, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko told reporters there had still been no Bosnian Serb response, and no sign of compliance, to U.N. demands that they remove heavy weapons from a

20 kilometre zone around the besieged capital.

"The aim remains the same. The Bosnian Serb army has to remove the threat to Sarajevo. This demand is not subject to negotiation," he said.

"If the Bosnian Serb leadership is sincere in its intentions to have the heavy weapons removed it must bring the Bosnian Serb army into check."

In the past 24 hours, just one Serb weapon had been detected moving, and that only about three kilometres inside the exclusion zone, the spokesman said.

Mr. Ivanko said, however, that NATO and the U.N. rapid reaction force were "deliberately not attacking positions which were silent and which are not perceived as an immediate threat to allow them to be moved outside the 20-km exclusion zone."

(Continued on page 7)

### U.S. invites Talabani, Barzani to talks in Washington

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Rival Iraqi Kurd leaders Jalal Talabani and Massud Barzani have been invited to Washington this month for talks with U.S. officials, Mr. Talabani said Wednesday.

"I am invited, along with Mr. Barzani, by Washington to discuss the latest developments in Iraq with American officials on Sept. 25," the head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said.

He said U.S. officials had also asked his party and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), headed by Mr. Barzani, to meet in Dublin on Tuesday for follow-up talks on an August 11 accord the two sides signed in Drogheda, Ireland.

"We hope the two meetings will take place," said Mr. Talabani, who was on a visit to Syria. There was no immediate word on whether Mr. Barzani would accept the invitations.

The Drogheda accord, sponsored by the United States, brought a truce between the PUK and the KDP who have been locked in a bloody conflict over power and tax revenue in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq since May 1994.

The follow-up talks will focus on the demilitarisation of the main northern Iraqi town of Erbil, held by the PUK, and the reactivation of the Kurdish administration which has been paralysed by the fighting, Mr. Talabani said.

The KDP has accused Syria and Iran of trying to wreck the truce by backing Turkish Kurd separatist attacks inside northern Iraq.

But Mr. Talabani condemned the accusation as "unfair."

"On the contrary, Syria encourages the two groups to settle their differences and works for the stability of the region," the PUK leader said.

"What we have heard from our Syrian brothers encourages understanding between the two parties and the

(Continued on page 3)



## Russia maintains denial of any secret Iran deal

MOSCOW (AP) — Top Russian nuclear officials tried again on Tuesday to defuse fears of secret contracts with Iran, saying all the deals with Tehran are open and peaceful.

"You could argue that any development of nuclear technology is a step towards creating nuclear capability. But I could also say a secondary school education is a step towards developing nuclear capability," said Mikhail Ryzhov, head of international affairs for the Atomic Energy Ministry.

There have been several press reports claiming Russia has signed secret contracts to provide Iran with reactors, as well as conflicting statements about the status of existing contracts to finish construction of Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant.

"These are peaceful contracts. They pursue no military goals," Edward Akopyan, head of the construction company for the Atomic Energy Ministry, told a news conference Tuesday.

He and other officials blasted last week's report by a British newspaper that said Russia had signed a separate, secret deal in August to provide two additional reactors for military purposes.

Mr. Akopyan called the report "sick imaginings." When he read the report, he said, "my ears curled and my hair stood on end."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is expected to demand clarification over the Bushehr deal during a trip to Moscow next week.

Officials say the confusion may stem from the fact that

Russia has two, not just one, contracts for the Bushehr plant.

One, for a pair of new, 440-megawatt light water reactors, got little attention when it was signed in May 1993. It was never implemented for what Mr. Akopyan called "technical and administrative reasons."

The second, signed in January, provoked bitter protests from the United States, which fears Iran will use the technology to develop nuclear weapons.

The \$800 million January contract calls for Russia to complete the plant and one of the two 1,000-megawatt reactors left unfinished when the German company Siemens abandoned the project after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

If all goes well with the first reactor, the January agreement allows for the completion of the second unfinished reactor, at an additional undetermined cost.

Only then would Russia move ahead with the May 1993 agreement, bringing the plant a total of four reactors, Mr. Akopyan said.

Mr. Akopyan said no new nuclear deals had been struck with Iran since January. About 200 Russian scientists are in Iran doing site work and research, he said.

Construction is expected to begin in October and last 4½ years.

Russia has a separate contract to provide fuel for the plant and reprocess spent fuel.

Another official told AFP the deal with Iran was "a normal commercial transaction."

He predicted that the United States would "make a fuss about it in any case because they have lost the Iranian market and do not want anybody else to beat them to contracts."

He said the sale of reactor technology did not breach the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and would not enable Iran to acquire nuclear weapons.

A Russian atomic energy delegation visited Iran at the end of August to discuss construction and financing arrangements for the first reactor at Bushehr on the Gulf.

But a diplomat here said Wednesday it could be premature to launch construction of the two additional reactors in view of Iran's payment difficulties.

"Unless the Russians are crazy they will wait to be paid for the first VVER-1000 reactor before launching work on these two reactors," the official said, adding that the work could take years.

Iran has agreed to pay 90 per cent of the costs in hard currency, in installments, and the rest in various goods manufactured in Iran.

Some 15,000 Russian technicians and other experts will be involved in the construction of the plant, which will take four years to build.

It is partly equipped by Siemens, which started the project during the reign of the Shah.

According to the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, construction of the 1,000-megawatt reactor is to start in October and deliveries of nuclear fuel from Russia are to start in 2001.

## Arab American University in Jenin will be first of its kind, founder says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Palestinian university being set up by a Jordanian group in the West Bank town of Jenin will be one of the unique institutions in the Middle East in that it will strive to maintain the standards of the renowned Stanislaus State University in California, one of its founders said Wednesday.

Maher Irsheid, a former member of the Jordanian parliament representing Jenin, said the Arab American University was already in the process of setting up an English-language centre to enable students to have sufficient language proficiency to absorb the level of teaching standards of Stanislaus State University.

"For us what matters most is the quality and standard of education we could offer to our students, and this would remain our key concern throughout," Mr. Irsheid told the Jordan Times.

Close links between Israeli and American universities are a regular feature of the

higher education system in the Jewish state, but virtually no Palestinian students ever had access to Israeli universities.

Stanislaus will be screening potential students through language tests before granting admission to the Jenin university, which, Mr. Irsheid said, hopes to open its doors to about 600 to 650 students in October 1995.

The university will be owned by a group of Jordanian investors — most of them graduates of American universities — with a capital of JD 12.5 million (\$17.5 million). The total cost of the university is expected to be around \$20 million. Work has already started on the site after a mixture of Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian architectural styles has been adopted for the buildings.

The Palestinian National Authority based in the Gaza Strip has issued a letter of full support for the university and the U.S. State Department has also verbally indicated its backing.

According to Mr. Irsheid, the university hopes to be "one of its kind in the Middle East because of its close asso-

ciation" with the California institution.

"We will have all access to Stanislaus' facilities," said Mr. Irsheid. "They are giving us E-mail facilities, and access to their computers and libraries in addition to their curricula and training of our teachers."

Marvalene Hughes, president of Stanislaus was recently quoted as saying that "It is not aware that an American university has had an opportunity to help build a university from the group up in another country."

"This is a conceptual idea at this time for development of a four-year comprehensive and graduate university using the American system of higher education as a model," said Ms. Hughes, who visited the region recently to finalise the arrangement.

"This will be a private university that is funded largely by Palestinians and Jordanians who are committed to their people," said the Stanislaus president. "They want to assure that high-quality education modelled on our system in the U.S. is available to their people."

## Settlers' number goes up

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel said on Tuesday the number of Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had grown nearly four per cent to 133,000 in the first half of 1995 despite a drop in government support for settlements.

The settlers oppose government peace moves with the Palestine Liberation Organisation to give up West Bank lands, citing fears for Israeli security and what they view as a Biblical right to settle the land that God gave the Jews.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said the Israeli population in the occupied territories had grown by 5,000 people — a jump of 3.9 per cent. The 133,000 Jews live in settlements scattered among nearly two million Palestinians.

The 5,000 figure includes births and migration, but excludes Arab East Jerusalem which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war and claims as part of its capital.

## Lawyers appeal against military trial in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Islamist lawyers have appealed against a presidential decree that referred the cases of 45 leading members of the banned Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist group, to military courts.

The appeal said President Hosni Mubarak's decree this month referring the 45 to military courts — usually reserved for militants charged with acts of violence — "was illegal because the accused believe in dialogue and did not practise violence."

It also said the constitution did not allow for trying civilians in the military-run courts, where defendants have little or no representation.

The appeal was filed at the state administrative court by lawyers belonging to the Islamist movement.

Judicial sources said the trial would probably start by mid-September. It will be the first mass trial of Brotherhood members since 1965, and is in line with the tough policy towards the organisation.

After years turning a blind eye to the activities of the group, the government has in the past year tried to equate the organisation with fundamentalists trying to overthrow it.

Detained Brotherhood members include Essam Eryao, deputy secretary-general of the Egyptian Medical Association, and Ibrahim Zafarani, secretary-general of the association's branch in Alexandria.

The Brotherhood said the government action was to prevent it winning seats in parliamentary elections expected in November.

Members of the Brotherhood cannot stand for election in the name of the organisation but in previous polls they have stood under the umbrella of recognised parties, with Brotherhood members helping to organise their campaigns.

Police on Tuesday arrested 13 suspected Muslim militants near Cairo, accusing them of taking up the ideas of the Jihad movement that killed President Sadat in 1981.

## Who is behind the Taliban?

ISLAMABAD (R) — The lightning offensive by the Taliban Islamic militia in western Afghanistan has thrown the spotlight back on the enigmatic religious students and again raised the question: Who is behind them?

The Taliban, led by students trained in Pakistan Koranic schools, burst onto the Afghanistan political scene late last year and quickly captured a third of the country.

But the movement, which intends to set up an Islamic state, seemed to stall after being forced back

from the gates of Kabul in March by forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The fall of Herat on Tuesday capped a Taliban resurgence in recent weeks. They have also taken Nimroz, Helmand and Farah provinces and last Sunday captured the strategic Shindand air base, about 80 kilometres from Herat, from presidential forces.

As before, fingers are pointing at Pakistan as the force behind the movement, a charge Pakistan denies.

"With the Taliban, it's a

Pakistan solution that is in progress," said one former Afghan diplomat.

Mr. Rabbani's administration was even more specific on Tuesday, claiming the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and other outside groups had been instrumental in helping the Taliban take Herat.

"Pakistan, which maintains its official position of non-interference in Afghan affairs, denies aiding the Taliban, just as it had previously denied aiding another opponent of Rabbani, Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

## U.S. seeks to warm up Israeli-Palestinian peace track

Los Angeles Times

THE CLINTON administration is insisting that the upcoming signing of the agreement on the long-awaited second stage of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process merits another party on the White House lawn. Just in case the stars of the hour, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, feel a little uncomfortable together, the White House producers have invited King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

The event, being planned for later this month, is supposed to raise the temperature of the chilly negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. A signing ceremony, the White House contends, will provide a much-needed boost to the supporters of peace in both communities, rebuke their opponents and temper those

members of Congress who oppose U.S. aid to the Palestinians. Administration officials add that the festivities may even persuade the international community to deposit a little extra cash in the dwindling accounts of the Palestinian Authority.

It is difficult to imagine someone actually believing that raising glasses at the White House will diminish, even in the slightest, the opposition of large segments of the Israeli population to the transfer of responsibility for security in the occupied West Bank to the Palestinian police. Nor will a glitzy ceremony in the Rose Garden improve the mood of Gaza's unemployed. On the contrary, it may serve to sharpen the criticism by Hamas that Arafat is deaf to the suffering of his people. Will a Bill Clinton handshake narrow the gap on the arguments over Jerusalem, Jewish set-

tlement in Hebron, or Israel's request for the extradition of terrorists who escaped to the territory of the Palestinian Authority? And will an invitation to this flamboyant ceremony convert in one fell swoop the members of Congress who are indisposed to opening the U.S. Treasury for Arafat?

The expectations that have risen around the half-baked celebration of peace only add to the difficulty of already complicated negotiations. Another ceremony, held far from the scene of constant anxieties, attacks and proaic concessions may actually increase the alienation of leaders from their publics. The empty space of the Syrian representation in the pew of bonoured guests will no doubt deepen the isolation of President Hafez Assad, the only participant of the start-up Madrid Conference who will be glaringly absent from

the Washington event.

The surprise of the Oslo agreements and the euphoria that accompanied the signing on the South Lawn in September, 1993, cannot be repeated. The governments of Rabin and Clinton mistakenly believed that peace speaks for itself. They abandoned the field to Israel's right wing and its American Jewish allies for whom the deal with the Palestinians is aathema both to their ideological beliefs and their political interests. The New York newspaper Jewish Press encourages its readers to call

the Embassy of Israel in Washington and the prime minister's office in Jerusalem to protest against the "heinous dictatorship reminiscent of a Nazi period." Jewish militants are skillfully using statements from the president of Israel, Ezer Weizman, who has repeatedly called on the government

to reassess its steps.

It is difficult to see what benefit the White House hopes to gain from bosting the signing ceremony in Washington. A photo opportunity with Rabin and Arafat has already proved to be a very short-term achievement. President Clinton was never involved in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Likewise, the peace treaty with Jordan was reached by the two countries without American interloction. The Clinton administration will not garner its credit in foreign policy from Middle East photo-diplomacy, but rather on the basis of the success of its true diplomacy and military involvement in Bosnia and in its ability to rescue relations with China from the nadir to which they have sunk.

After the Aug. 21 suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem, Hamas announced that the bombing was designed to

weaken public support for the Rabin government as it approaches an election in November, 1996. The White House is gambling that Hamas does not also intend to influence American politics by embarrassing Clinton and his guests at the height of the party.

The process of reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians is at a sensitive, vulnerable and painful stage. In this peace process, there are no free parties. Many will still have to pay the price for peace. It is only fitting that the United States and other Western nations do their part to reduce the risks and improve the mood in the region. The right way to express such support for the peace process in the Middle East would be to sign the second stage of the agreement in a modest ceremony in a refugee camp at the crossing station between Israel and Gaza.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Oman calls for boosting ties with Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusef Ben Alawi Abdullah, called for boosting ties with Iran in a meeting here with President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the official daily Iran said Wednesday. Mr. Ben Alawi, who arrived here Tuesday for a two-day visit, said in the meeting late Tuesday that his country was "interested in familiarizing itself with Iran's viewpoints toward regional developments." Oman is also "interested in expanding and deepening ties with the Islamic republic," he was quoted as saying. Mr. Rafsanjani said he welcomed boosting ties and cooperation with Muslim countries of the region "without the interference of foreign countries." The Omani minister also met Tuesday with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss regional cooperation. Mr. Velayati called for speeding up implementing agreements in economic and political fields.

### UAE guards seize 41 Asian intruders

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) coast guards have seized 41 Asians who tried to enter the country illegally in search of jobs, coast guard sources said on Wednesday. The 41 Iranians, Pakistanis and Afghans were captured on Tuesday after their two boats entered the territorial waters of the eastern emirate of Fujairah in the Gulf of Oman, the sources said. More than 25,000 illegal emigrants, mostly Asians, have been seized over the past two decades while trying to sneak into the UAE, a major Gulf oil producer with one of the highest per capita income in the world.

### Morocco arrests Europe-bound migrants

RABAT (R) — Moroccan police arrested in the northern city of Tangier 12 people who tried to cross illegally the Straits of Gibraltar to Spain, the official news agency MAP reported late on Tuesday. The clandestine emigrants tried to cross by a small boat the 14 kilometres which separates the North African city of Tangier from southern Spain, MAP said. It did not give the nationality of the arrested emigrants. Mohammed Menouch, a ferryman, who was in charge of arranging the night crossing operation, was paid the equivalent of \$1,000 per head, MAP said. He was also arrested.

The group risks up to three months in jail. A group of 38 other clandestine emigrants bound for Europe were arrested last night in the same area, the opposition Al Bayan reported.

### Egyptian election brawl ends with six hurt

CAIRO (AFP) — Six people were hurt and 19 were arrested when the first punch-up of the new Egyptian election campaign broke out between campaigners in the Nile Delta, the government daily Al-Akhar reported Wednesday. The dispute erupted Tuesday when supporters of candidate Mortada Mansour tried to tear down posters of the current deputy Abdul Rahman Barakat, a member of the ruling National Democratic Party. Barakat's supporters rushed to intervene in the town of Mit Ghamr, 80 kilometres north of Cairo. Legislative elections are scheduled for November, and such brawls are common during campaigning especially in the provinces.

### Dead man crosses sea to Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — The body of a German missing since his plane crashed off Turkey two months ago has been washed up across the sea in Lebanon, a spokesman for the German embassy said on Wednesday. Claus Schenk's body drifted across 600 kilometres of the Mediterranean south from the Antalya coast in Turkey to Beirut after he drowned in the accident, said embassy attache Rainer Gleich. Lebanese and German officials were unable to explain how Schenk's body was able to drift such a long way. "It is quite amazing," said Mr. Gleich. Schenk, 38, and his father died when their light plane crashed on a day-trip along the Turkish coast during a holiday. The pilot reported, Schenk, whose father has never been found, was identified by a medallion he wore on a gold chain.

### Israel backs sleep deprivation for suspects

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's Supreme Court has given security service interrogators the green light to deprive suspects of sleep in a bid to extract information and confessions. The court rejected Tuesday an appeal by a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to be allowed to sleep at least six hours a day without interruption. Iman Adel Hijazi, suspected of helping prepare a suicide bombing of a Jerusalem bus which left four passengers dead on August 21, had been allowed only two hours of sleep after 48 hours under questioning, his lawyer Andre Rosenthal told the court. Another time, Mr. Hijazi was granted six hours sleep after 45 hours of interrogation, Mr. Rosenthal said. "It is a question of saving lives," replied Shai Nizan, for the state. "The aim of the interrogation is not so much to shed light on past events as to obtain information on serious events which may happen."

### Qatar Airways to fly to Maldives

DUBAI (R) — Qatar Airways said on Wednesday it would start flights to the Maldives in October, the Qatari News Agency reported. It quoted chief executive Sheikh Hamad Ben Ali Ben Jaber Al Thani as saying Qatar Airways would use one of its two new Boeing 747s on the route. Sheikh Hamad said Qatar Airways also expected to start flights to Bangkok and Kathmandu in October. Qatar Airways was launched in 1994 in competition with Emirates airline of Dubai and regional carrier Gulf Air.

# JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7711-19

## PROGRAMME TWO

13:15 Fireman Sam  
13:30 Iris-the Happy Professor  
13:50 My Secret Identity  
14:15 NBA  
14:30 Pirates Island  
14:50 Take Your Pick  
15:10 Dead Men's Tales  
16:30 1 Witness Video  
17:00  
Children's Programme — Raban  
17:30 Varieties and Game Show  
18:00 News in French  
19:15 Magazine  
19:30 News Headlines  
19:35 National Geographic  
20:00 The Album Show  
21:15 Murder She Wrote  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 In The Name of Duty  
23:59 Shogun  
00:30 Perfect Stranger

## PRAYER TIMES

04:50 Fajr  
(R-7) (Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:34 Dhuhr  
16:06 'Asr  
18:58 Maghrib  
20:17 'Isa

## CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swefith, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.  
613785.  
St. Joseph Church, 624590.

# Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
TerraNova Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel.  
623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 620851. Tel.  
628543.

Assiuta Catholic Church Tel.  
771331.  
Assiuta Orthodox Church Tel.  
775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.  
Assiuta International Church Tel.  
625226.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.  
824328.  
News in French  
German-speaking Evangelical Com-  
munity Tel. 664195

The Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church in  
Amman  
Tel. 811295

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-  
ment of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions  
will prevail with temperatures  
around average and winds north-  
westerly moderate. Temperatures  
are expected to drop slightly on  
Friday. In Agaba, winds will be  
northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 19/32

Agaba ..... 25/38  
Deserts ..... 18/35  
Jordan Valley ..... 24/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 32 Agaba 33, Humidity  
reading—Amman 37 per cent.  
Agaba 1 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Walid Al Mami ..... 675485  
Dr. Yousef Rashid ..... 896301  
Dr. Shitawi Abu Zayid ..... 737962  
Dr. Isam Al Asmar ..... 890504  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637055  
Nasrakh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yusuf pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shamash pharmacy ..... 676640  
Najourh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Najih pharmacy ..... 847632

JBKD:  
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Sani Al Lawzi ..... 989601  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

64421/2  
642362

Abdih Almaternity, J. Ana. .... 64421/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362

## EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Response ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 617100  
Blood bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Tree Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 810230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Exchange ..... 623100  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 777311  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 689100  
Jordan Electricity Authority  
..... 815615

Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 06-53200

## HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre 81381/332  
Khalid Maternity, J. Ana ..... 64421/2  
Abdih Almaternity, J. Ana. .... 64421/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362

## ARRIVALS

Malha, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 6641714  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
Rasheed Hospital ..... 645845  
Al-Mushter Hospital ..... 6672270  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Itanah, Al-Muhajra ..... 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 843402  
Army, Marjari ..... 89161175  
Oqeen Alia Hospital ..... 62024090  
Amal Hospital ..... 667195  
The Arab Centre for Heart and  
Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:  
Taqat Govt. Hospital (09)983333  
Zarga National Hospital  
..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990990  
Rajin ..... 623100  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)27553  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)27225  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)41111

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

04:25 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur  
(RJ)  
07:00 Sanaa, Aden (RJ)  
08:15 Sanaa (RJ)  
09:45 New Delhi (RJ)  
10:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
10:35 Muscat, Dhufi (RJ)  
11:00 Colombo (RJ)  
14:00 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)  
17:20 Casablanca (add) (RJ)  
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
18:25 Tunis (RJ)  
19:25 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)  
18:55 Al 'Ain (add) (RJ)  
19:00 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
19:20 Athens (RJ)  
19:15 Athens (RJ)  
19:25 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
20:45 Rome (RJ)  
08:15 Larnaca (RJ)  
02:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
04:00 Bahrain (add) (RJ)  
04:50 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)

## QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information  
department at the Queen Alia In-  
ternational Airport Tel. (08)532000,  
5, where it should always be veri-  
fied.

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:00 Doha (O7)  
13:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)  
14:00 Riyadh (SV)  
17:00 Rome (AZ)  
18:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)  
20:35 Cairo (MS)  
21:00 Dubai (EK)  
21:10 Beirut (ME)

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Beirut (ME)  
14:30 Damascus, Doha (O7)  
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Misfat (GF)  
15:25 Riyadh (SV)  
21:25 Cairo (MS)  
22:00 Dubai (EK)  
8:25 Amsterdam (KL)

13:30 Istanbul (TK)  
00:50 London (KL)  
01:10 Amsterdam (KL)

## DEPARTURES

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40 Beirut (RJ)  
11:25 Tunis (add) (RJ)  
12:00 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
12:15 Rome (RJ)  
12:50 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
13:10 Chicago (RJ)  
13:10 Cairo (RJ)  
13:25 Athens (RJ)  
20:35 London (RJ)  
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)  
21:30 Jeddah (add) (RJ)  
22:00 Bahrain (add) (RJ)  
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 Dubai (RJ)  
23:00 Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore  
(RJ)  
23:00 Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (add) (RJ)

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 604/400  
Banana ..... 680  
Banana (Mukammarr) ..... 620  
Cabbage ..... 140/80  
Carrot ..... 380/280  
Cauliflower ..... 240/180  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 150/100  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 280/150  
Eggplant ..... 220/150  
Grape ..... 360/260  
Grape ..... 700/500  
Graps ..... 700/500  
Guava ..... 750/650  
Lemon ..... 370/270  
Marrow (large) ..... 250/150  
Marrow (small) ..... 420/320  
Melon ..... 150/100  
Mushrooms ..... 800/700  
Onion (dry) ..... 250/180  
Orange ..... 450/350  
Peaches ..... 950/700  
Pepper (hot) ..... 200/100  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 300/100  
Pomegranate ..... 360/260  
Potato ..... 250/180  
String Beans ..... 650/500  
Sweet Melon ..... 380/280  
Tomato ..... 140/80  
Water Melon ..... 140/80

# HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 a.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday



Six new ambassadors appointed

Jordanian parliament supports dialogue to settle Sudan-Egypt border dispute — Lawzi

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved the appointment of six new Jordanian ambassadors to the U.N., Germany, Morocco, Oman, France and Algeria.

According to the council's decision: Ambassador Hassan Abu Nimah will succeed Adnan Abu Odeh as permanent representative to the U.N. in New York; Ambassador Hussein Hamami will succeed Samir Khalifeh as ambassador to Bonn; Ambassador Nayef Hadid will replace Mr. Hamami in Rabat; Ambassador Mohammad Ali Kodah will take over from Samir Hmoud in Muscat; Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf will take over from Mutassam Bilbeisi in Paris; and Ambassador Mohammad Khair Miquel will succeed Khalid Obeidat in Algiers.

Ambassadors Ahn Odeh, Bilbeisi and Obeidat have retired from the foreign service, whereas Ambassador Khalifeh is expected to go to Canada.

Mr. Abu Nimah had been ambassador to Rome, and Sharif Fawwaz, envoy to the U.N. in Geneva.

Ambassador Miquel had been head of the Cultural Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Kodah was chief of the Air Force before his appointment as ambassador in the foreign service.

It was not immediately clear what Ambassador Hmoud would do upon his return from Muscat.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Senate speaker Ahmad Lawzi Wednesday said Parliament was willing and ready to help contain the dispute between Sudan and Egypt over the border district of Halaib.

Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan has always been an advocate of dialogue among brothers for a peaceful settlement to all disputes and problems.

A message from the Sudanese Parliament Speaker Mohammad Khalifeh on the border dispute was delivered to Mr. Lawzi by visiting Sudanese members of parliament Abu Ali Majdoub Ahn Ali and Abdul Rahman Al Ghadni.

The Sudanese parliamentarians said that Khartoum calls for direct dialogue with Cairo or through dialogue mediated by Arab countries or international arbitration to solve the dispute through peaceful means.

Mr. Lawzi said Jordan hopes it can contribute towards a solution of this issue as it has always called for settling inter-Arab differences within an Arab framework and through dialogue.

Last month Sudan announced that it would not relinquish its rights in the disputed border region even if Egypt conducts what it called an aggressive campaign to regain the Halaib area.

Egypt says its border with Sudan runs along the 22nd parallel, placing the 18,000-square-kilometre Halaib region in its territory, based on a 1899 treaty between London and Cairo.

Khartoum says the treaty was later amended to give it Halaib, where most of the population is ethnically Sudanese.



Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Wednesday reviews peaceful means to solve the Sudan-Egypt border dispute with visiting Sudanese parliamentarians Abu Ali Majdoub Ahn Ali and Abdul Rahman Al Ghadni who were accompanied by Sudanese Ambassador to Amman Abdullah Mohammad Jbara (Petra photo)

Jordan well positioned to play stronger UN role — Abu Nimah

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's new envoy to the United Nations, Hassan Abu Nimah, leaves for New York next week saying "Jordan is well positioned to play a stronger role in the various activities" of the world organisation.

The signing of the peace treaty with Israel, the democratisation process and the "respect" Jordan and its leadership enjoy among members of the international community place the Kingdom in a better position to be an active member of the UN, Mr. Abu Nimah told the Jordan Times Wednesday, a day after the Council of Ministers approved his appointment.

Before signing the peace treaty, he said, Jordan was seen as a belligerent party to a conflict that has been on the agenda of the UN almost since its establishment.

This perception has changed and the Kingdom is now viewed "as it has always been viewed" as one of the most stable countries of the region with a strong potential to play a stabilising and moderating role in the area.

"As a Jordanian representative at the UN, I shall endeavour to emphasise the role of my country in any effort aimed at stabilising the new world order," that has emerged after the end of the cold war, said Mr. Abu Nimah, a professional career diplomat who had represented Jordan in the Benelux, the European Community, Italy, the Republic of San Marino and Portugal.

Mr. Abu Nimah stressed the "constructive" role Jordan has played in the UN peacekeeping forces, adding that positive participation can be further strengthened.

The world recognises Jordan as "a pragmatist, moderate and peaceful state," Mr. Abu Nimah said.

"I believe we in the UN can build on that, and strengthen further the role of Jordan not only in peacekeeping but also in peace-making."

Mr. Abu Nimah said he will also be working to enhance Jordan's participation in the activities of the other specialised agencies of the United Nations.

The new UN ambassador said he will assume his new post at a time when the United Nations is still trying to adapt to the challenges brought about by the demise of the old world order and the emergence of the new world one.

"So far the character of the new world order has not been identified and it might take time before we know what order shall emerge," Mr. Abu Nimah said, adding that the stability which was expected to prevail after the end of the cold war has not been realised yet, and the world is faced with many ethnic and religious wars that, if not checked, could spread and grow.

Accordingly, he said, the UN has an important role to play in peacekeeping and peace-making and the Kingdom is in a position to be an active player in such activities.



Hassan Abu Nimah

'Delay in minister's visit to Iraq is technical, not political'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah has only deferred but not called off a visit to Iraq, and the reason for the delay was purely technical, official sources said Wednesday.

The sources insisted that the postponement had little to do with the state of political relations between Amman and Baghdad following the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of two high-ranking Iraqi officials.

"The minister is in touch with his Iraqi counterpart on a continued basis, and the Iraqi government has been informed through the proper channels of the postponement of the visit," said an official source.

Other sources expected the visit to take place before Sept. 15.

"The postponement of the visit should not be construed as anything but technical," said the official. "Jordan has no plans at the moment to seek alternate sources for oil. There may be moves to ensure the uninterrupted receipt of oil to meet Jordan's needs, but the objective is to have a contingency plan just in case Iraqi supplies are interrupted."

One of the key issues to be discussed by Mr. Darwazah in Baghdad is the renewal of an annual Jordanian-Iraqi agreement on Iraqi oil supplies to the Kingdom.

Technically, an accord signed in 1994 expires on Aug. 31, but Iraq is continuing to truck 50,000 barrels of crude oil and 20,000 barrels of fuel oil in line with an understanding on grace period in the agreement for renewal.

Also expected to be discussed during Mr. Darwazah's visit to Baghdad are prospects for building an oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan's only petroleum refinery at Zarqa in the first phase of a network that would eventually extend to Aqaba, where Jordan plans to build another refinery.

The first phase will involve a stretch of 600 kilometres from the Iraqi town of Haditha to Zarqa.

The September bulletin of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said Jordan and Iraq were to send a joint delegation to the United Nations in New York to discuss the project with the Security Council.

The current Iraqi oil exports to Jordan are exempt from the sweeping international sanctions imposed against Iraq. Given the continued sanctions, Jordan and Iraq would need Security Council permission to go ahead with the project.

Furthermore, external financing for the project is unlikely if the council's Sanctions Committee does not approve it.

"Negotiations will be conducted with regional and international investment institutions to secure financing for the project, which will cost around \$1.4 billion," said the OPEC bulletin.

But Jordanian sources said the \$1.4 billion estimate, drawn up in early 1994, was for the entire project, including the second phase, which will involve about 400 kilometres of extra pipelines.

"The first phase is expected to cost around \$600 million," said an official source.

Jordan now spends about JD 30 million — about \$D 6.2 per tonne — for trucking its oil needs from Iraq.

The pipeline will not only alleviate the cost but also reduce the hazardous truck traffic on the main Iraq-Jordan highway.

Ajloun tourism project plans cable cars, artificial lake, says municipality

AJLOUN (J.T.) — A study of a tourist project involving an artificial lake and cable car services to the historic Ajloun castle has been completed, Ajloun Municipality said Wednesday.

Mayor Mohammad Smadi said that the JD 2.775 million project, to be located between the northern towns of Ajloun and Kufunfeh, is designed to attract visitors to the ancient castle and the Ajloun area.

Mr. Smadi said that the 90-dunum lake, including restaurants, cafes, and stores, is expected to cost JD 1.55 million.

The cable car service will connect the lake in the Kufunfeh valley and the ancient castle of Ajloun which rises some 1,000 metres above sea level.

Mr. Smadi said that the location has a scenic view set amidst thick forest trees in a mountainous area with 12 water springs and cool weather conditions in summer.

The cable car project will have an annual operational cost of JD 60,000 but is expected to bring in JD 354,000 in annual returns.

Tourist facilities around the lake should earn JD 278,000 in annual revenues, Mr. Smadi said.

Asked about the prospects for the implementation of the project, Mr. Smadi told the Jordan Times that he will try to submit it to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference after consultations with the Ministry of Planning.

Mr. Smadi said Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib had advised the municipality to seek financial support from foreign investors.

Yemen, Jordan sign trade, supply agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A Yemeni delegation Wednesday concluded a week-long visit to Jordan by signing a trade and supply agreement of cooperation with the Kingdom.

The two sides agreed on cooperation in the exchange of visits by Civil Service Consumer Corporation officials for the mutual benefit of supply matters, coordination in the purchase of goods from world markets, the exchange of information on markets, coordination in information related to contracts and tenders for the purchase of goods.

The Yemeni minister and his delegation conducted talks with Jordanian government officials including Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and toured a number of Ministry of Supply stores to familiarise themselves with the supply system and the work of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation.

The agreement, in the form of a memorandum of understanding, was signed by the directors of the civil service consumer corporations of both countries, Yahya Ansi of Yemen and Abdul Hadi Mahalieri of Jordan, and was endorsed by Minister of Supply Mohammad Afaodi of Yemen and Adel Qudab of Jordan.

Dr. Afaodi left for home following his visit and was seen off by Mr. Qudab and other government officials.

Japan donates \$8m in medical equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will receive a grant of \$8 million in medical equipment to be installed at Ministry of Health hospitals early next year, according to an agreement signed at the Ministry of Health Wednesday.

A ministry official said the Japanese firm, Nishio Iwai, won a contract from the Japanese government to forward, supply and install the equipment in January of 1996.

Jordanian technicians are expected to start their training on the utilisation of the equipment in February.

The grant covers CT scanning, anaesthetic as well as laboratory and X-ray equipment.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by Health Minister Aref Batayneh and for the Japanese firm by its representative Makoto Ogasawara, according to the official.

Dr. Batayneh was quoted as saying that the grant was in implementation of a technical assistance programme to Jordan from Japan.

He thanked the Japanese government for their assistance and said the agreement aims at improving health care services in Jordan through modernising hospital equipment.

March to help diabetics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society for the Care of Diabetes (JSCD) is sponsoring a six-kilometre march on Friday to raise funds for the benefit of the patients receiving treatment at the society's clinic.

The sponsored walk will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, who is honorary president of the society.

Society President Dr. Mohammad Zahiri told the Jordan Times Wednesday that the march, in which an expected 5,000 participants will take part, is to kick off at Hussein Youth City at 10:00 a.m. and end at the society's offices at Dahiyeh Al Rashid.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Mule" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

FILM

"Seven Days in May" at the American Centre on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"The Effect of Arab Calligraphy on Other Arts" by Yousef Dhanoub at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

Poetry recital by Nabila Al Ghatrab, Abdullah Nijar, Sana' Abu Mayaleh, and Ayman Hijawi on Friday at the Phoenix Gallery for Cutlure and Art at 7:00 p.m.

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES EXHIBITIONS

Works of graphic art by several artists and students at the South Gallery.

Photography of Jordan, "Elements in Harmony" by Hala Hodeib at the Blue House.

Display of painted stone and steel, "Embargo Art" by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

"Early Morning Scribbles" by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Birt Ali and "Late Night Scribbles" by Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Ali Bernamet.

Open Air Sculpture workshop.

Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

EXHIBITIONS

Photographs on Jordan entitled "Jordan, One of a Kind" by Paula Williams-Brown and illustrations and water colours by Jordanian artist Ramzi El-Sayyed at The Gallery, main lobby of Jordan InterContinental Hotel, 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. except Fridays).

Work by Ali Al 'Ubaidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Arafat hopes for accord

(Continued from page 1)

while accused Israel of reneging on the 1993 agreement.

"It's a violation of the Oslo accord," he wrote Wednesday in the Palestinian daily Al Hayat Al Jadida (New Life). "Israelis and Palestinians should negotiate only about how to evacuate the settlers."

Beside the question of Hebron, several other issues are holding up agreement, including:

The fate of the estimated 6,500 Palestinians in Israeli jails.

Modalities for elections, particularly in East Jerusalem.

Control over the electricity grid on the West Bank.

The second phase of autonomy, which is already 14 months behind schedule, is to cover Israeli military redeployment outside Palestinian areas on the West Bank, the transfer of civil powers and elections to a self-rule council.

"It is unlikely that everything can be finished by Friday and at least one further meeting between Arafat and Peres will be necessary."

ELBA HOUSE CO. LTD

Manufacturer of Mercedes Buses in Jordan Congratulates the President and the People of Brazil on the occasion of Independence Day

Founder / Gen. Director - Usama M. Khoury



## Cancelled summit clouds Northern Ireland peace process

DUBLIN (R) — Britain voiced disappointment on Wednesday at Ireland's decision to cancel a crucial Northern Ireland summit but stood firmly by its refusal to call all-party talks while IRA guerrillas hold on to their guns.

"It's obviously serious but it's something to be steady about. We're disappointed, we're slightly surprised to be honest," Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told British and Irish radio.

Sir Patrick said Irish Prime Minister John Bruton's abrupt decision to cancel Wednesday's summit less than 24 hours before it was supposed to start had thrown into doubt the setting up of an international panel to deal with the disarmament impasse. Asked if such an international commission might still be set up, Sir Patrick was cool. "Well, I don't think that is necessarily the case," he said.

Sir Patrick said: "One thing is absolutely clear: people want to see their politicians

talking but the vast majority don't want them talking with a shadow of a gun falling over the table."

Ireland scuppered the summit because of British insistence that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and pro-British Protestant gunmen start shedding arsenals used in a war for and against British rule which stopped with twin ceasefires one year ago.

"The Irish government is not interested in setting preconditions for all-party talks, nor is the government interested in artificially postponing difficult questions," a government spokesman told Reuters late Tuesday night.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said officials of the two governments were in touch Wednesday to try to "narrow the gap" between them over the crucial issue of "decommissioning" arms which has deadlocked the peace process for months.

Mr. Spring said Mr. Bruton was studying his diary to see if he could postpone or

shorten a planned visit to Canada starting Friday to attend a revised summit with Mr. major "sooner rather than later — we would hope in a matter of days," he told Irish Radio.

He denied that the Irish government had buckled under pressure from Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, after three-hour talks in Dublin last week at which it spelled out its refusal to get involved in disarmament before all-party talks.

"The reality of our position is that we have to adopt a position which will bring all parties to the negotiating table," he told Irish Radio.

Mr. Spring said one option under consideration to narrow the gap between Sinn Fein and the British government was a gesture by the IRA over shedding its stocks of ground to air missiles, Semtex plastic explosive and heavy machine guns.

Sources close to the peace process said the Irish government hoped Sinn Fein would get the IRA to issue a statement pledging not to

use weapons for offensive purposes or in a first strike.

But senior Sinn Fein spokesmen say this would be tantamount to a surrender by the guerrillas, who are still training and carrying out dummy attacks, according to Irish security sources.

Mitchel McLaughlin, the Sinn Fein chairman, told Irish Radio that the idea of an international commission to defuse the crisis over disarmament was pointless if it was just "another way of packaging an IRA surrender."

The summit failure made the prospect of an early holding of all-party Northern Ireland talks even more remote and underlined Mr. Major's limited room for manoeuvre because of domestic problems.

With only a single-digit majority in the British parliament, he relies on the support of Protestant Unionist parties, which want to keep Northern Ireland British and say they will never sit down with Sinn Fein while the IRA is a standing army.



The crew of Soyuz TM-22 spacecraft; German Astronaut Thomas Reiter (left) Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko (center) and Sergei Avdeev (right) and the crew of the space station Mir (background) give a brief press conference aboard the station after their successful docking (AFP photo)

## Russian rocket with Euromir crew docks with the Mir

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian Soyuz TM-22 rocket with a European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts aboard docked right on schedule Tuesday with the Mir orbiting space station.

About two hours after the rendezvous, at 1230 GMT, the hatch opened and German astronaut Thomas Reiter and Russian cosmonauts Sergei Avdeyev and Yuri Gidzenko joined the two-man crew aboard the Mir.

"The German cosmonaut looks just great, I can see him on the screen now, and he couldn't look better," mission control specialist Valery Lyndin said.

Mr. Lyndin said the three would transfer their equipment to the Mir, then spend the rest of the day relaxing.

Their spaceship lifted off Sunday from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The docking, guided by computers on board the spaceship, went off right on schedule at 1030 GMT, Mr. Lyndin said in a telephone interview from mission control centre in Kaliningrad near Moscow.

The two crews will work together until Sept. 11, when cosmonauts Anatoly Solovyov and Nikolai Budarin return to Earth. This is the second ESA

mission to the Mir and, at 135 days, the longest Western European manned mission. The mission's primary goals are zero gravity research and preparation for the planned international space station.

Reiter, 37, Avdeyev, 39, and Gidzenko, the 33-year-old mission commander, are scheduled to return to Earth on Jan. 16.

Reiter, the mission's flight engineer, plans a five-hour space walk Oct. 20, the first for an ESA astronaut. He'll also take part in a docking this fall between the Mir and the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis.

## Dole vows no compromise with Clinton

CHICAGO (AP) — In a blunt message to the White House and his Republican presidential rivals, Senate majority leader Bob Dole vowed Tuesday to "fight to the end for fundamental conservative change."

The Republican front-runner for the 1996 presidential race set the stage for battles over welfare and the budget as he aligned himself with economic conservatives.

"This will not be an autumn of compromise — make no mistake about it," Sen. Dole said in a speech to the Economic Club of Chicago. "This fall we will win our fight for revolutionary change vote by vote and bill by bill."

Mr. Clinton responded from California, saying, "there are those who say there should be no compromise this autumn, but I say that good people of good will want us to find common ground."

Answering concerns among conservatives that he may not be with them, Sen. Dole delivered a detailed critique of Mr. Clinton's

economic policies. He attacked moves ranging from the 1993 tax increase to what Sen. Dole derided as heavy-handed regulation that he said was slowing growth and holding back wages.

"The Clinton economy looks positively anemic," Sen. Dole said, leaving little doubt he believes Republicans can have the upper hand in 1996 on the centerpiece issue of Mr. Clinton's successful 1992 campaign.

Sen. Dole promised "a programme that embodies opportunity and responsibility for our people — one that strives to create an economy which frees the genius of Americans from the heavy hand of government."

Part of that programme, he said, would be lower taxes and support for a constitutional amendment that would require a three-fifths vote in Congress to raise taxes.

Beyond that, however, Sen. Dole was heavy on optimistic rhetoric about the potential of the American worker and short on

specifics.

He restated support for scrapping "the whole twisted wreck" of federal tax law in favour of "lower and flatter rates."

But Sen. Dole did not endorse any of the competing versions of the flat tax that are gaining support among his fellow Republicans, including several presidential rivals.

That Sen. Dole was out of Washington at all on the day the Senate returned from its summer recess was evidence of the difficulty he faces juggling his dual — and sometimes competing — roles as Senate leader and White House hopeful.

He held the front-runner's position throughout the early 1995 jockeying, but was embarrassed last month by a poor showing in an Iowa straw poll, where he could muster only a tie with Texas Sen. Phil Gramm.

Sen. Dole blamed the showing on spending too little time in the state, but rivals believe the poor Iowa showing proved Sen. Dole's vulnerability.

## Simpson jury hears infamous 'n' word for first time

LOS ANGELES (R) — The jury in the O.J. Simpson double murder trial heard for the first time Tuesday how former detective Mark Fuhrman used the racial epithet "nigger" and displayed his hatred of blacks.

Estate agent Kathleen Bell said that in 1985 or 1986 Fuhrman — a key prosecution witness against the black former football hero — told her, "if I had my way all the niggers would be gathered together and burned."

A second witness, Natalie Singer, testified that Mr. Fuhrman had told her, "the only good nigger is a dead nigger."

Mr. Fuhrman's animosity to blacks and other minorities had been the subject of weeks of behind-the-scenes wrangling by lawyers from both sides outside the presence of the jury.

Ms. Bell's appearance came after six days in which the sequestered jury had not heard any evidence as lawyers argued over what has been referred to in the court as the "n" word.

The jury of nine blacks, two whites and one Hispanic, who had appeared increasingly bored in recent weeks during tedious scientific testimony, took copious notes Tuesday. One or two appeared to be disgusted at what they were hearing.

Ms. Bell said Mr. Fuhrman expressed his feelings about blacks during their first meeting at a Marine recruiting station in a Los Angeles suburb after Ms. Bell mentioned the name of Marcus Allen, a black football star.

She said ex-Marine Fuhrman was tall and handsome and she thought he might have been attracted to her friend. But at the mention of Allen's name, she said, Mr. Fuhrman's "demeanor changed and his attitude towards me changed. He said that when he sees a black man driving with a white woman in a car he pulls them over."

"I said what if they didn't do anything wrong. He said he'd find something. I asked what if they're in love? He said, 'that's disgusting.'"

Ms. Bell said Mr. Fuhrman started talking about burning blacks, which was "probably the most frightening thing I had ever heard." She said that when Mr. Fuhrman issued his verbal attack on blacks, she got "teary-eyed" and left.

## U.N. ups to half million the number of N. Koreans made homeless by flooding

GENEVA (AP) — Half a million people have been made homeless by flooding in North Korea and nearly half the country's annual grain production has been destroyed, reports said.

U.N. relief teams said the latest homeless estimate was up from 150,000 reported by the United Nations last week.

On Tuesday, a Japanese news agency quoted a letter from North Korea to the Geneva-based International Federation of Red Cross Societies saying recent floods destroyed or damaged 1.9 million tonnes of grain, nearly half the annual production.

The floods late last month submerged 331,000 hectares (817,570 acres) of farmland, damaged 1,974 kilometres of irrigation canals and "harmed" 482,406 farm animals, Kyodo News Service quoted the letter as saying.

North Korea said a total of 1,901,000 tons of grain were damaged, the agency's Geneva-dated report said. The Red Cross estimates that North Korea annually produces from 4 million to 5 million tons of grain, it said.

Some 60-70 people are missing and feared dead after they were swept away by flash floods caused by recent heavy rains, North Korean officials have told the relief teams, who have been assessing damage in the isolated country since last week.

Madeleine Moulin-Acevedo, spokeswoman for the U.N. Department of Humanitarian Affairs, said the teams had not yet been able to estimate total damage. But just in Chagan province, northeast of the capital Pyongyang, the team assessed flood and landslide damage to houses, schools,

hospitals and cropland at \$1.8 billion.

The North Korean government originally estimated the floods from rains in July and August caused \$15 billion in damage throughout the country of more than 21 million people.

So far the U.N. team has visited three of the most affected areas — Hwanghae, north Pyongyang and Chagan provinces, a department report said.

It said Huichon city, 120 kilometres northeast of Pyongyang, had recorded 1,230 millimetres of rain last month, with some 442 millimetres falling on Aug. 17-18.

The U.N. team said North Korean needs donations of warm clothing and fabric, blankets and quilts, kitchen utensils, medicines and food, mainly rice.

## Greece, Macedonia to sign accord on dispute

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Greece is ready to lift its economic embargo against Macedonia as part of an agreement aimed at resolving a longstanding dispute with the former Yugoslav republic, a U.N. mediator said Tuesday.

The foreign ministers of Greece and Macedonia plan to meet next week at the United Nations to conclude the agreement, Cyrus Vance said.

Greece has refused to recognise its northern neighbour as Macedonia, claiming the former Yugoslav republic usurped the name. The republic declared independence in 1991.

Greece also has demanded that Macedonia drop an ancient Greek symbol from its flag and amend its constitution to remove references which Greece says reflect territorial claims.

Macedonia is asking for an end to the embargo Greece imposed in 1994 to press Macedonia into changing its flag and constitution. Mr. Vance said Greece was prepared to lift the embargo.

"The agreement will resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries and I hope will form the basis of future friendly relations between the parties," Mr. Vance said.

The agreement "covers all of the items except a final decision on what the name will be," he added.

Mr. Vance would not give specific details of the agreement, but said it covers such things as the question of the constitution, the question of the borders, the question of the flag.

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## Democrats jump ship as party sinks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The retirement of Senator Claiborne Pell has dealt another blow to the Democratic Party, which has been plagued by lawmakers jumping ship since the Republicans seized Congress for the first time in 40 years last November.

The Senate has been the party's most visible sore spot. Two members who were elected as Democrats have switched parties, and on Tuesday Rhode Island's Sen. Pell announced he will join four others retiring next November.

That news — coupled with rumours that Georgia Senator Sam Nunn may follow suit — has sent shock waves through the party.

"In all likelihood we'll see a filibuster-proof majority in 1997," said Democratic consultant Ted Van Dyke, explaining that with the new vacancies, next year's vote could push the current 54-46 Republican majority over the 60 seat benchmark.

That magic number gives the Republicans enough votes to block a filibuster — the use of long speeches on the floor to obstruct the passage of a bill which is now the only recourse the minority Democrats have.

While Sen. Pell, a 76-year-old who has been diagnosed

with Parkinson's disease, voiced reluctance at leaving the Senate he still reveres, his colleague Bill Bradley gave the knife a twist when he decided not seek re-election next year.

"Politics is broken," Sen. Bradley declared last month when he announced he was giving up his New Jersey seat.

And while he said he was "disgusted with the politics of both parties," Sen. Bradley struck a nerve with President Bill Clinton, who has been blamed for both the Republican legislative victory last year and the subsequent decay of the party.

Worse still, Sen. Bradley is considering running as an independent against Mr. Clinton in 1996, an avenue being eyed by an increasing number as the president's ratings continue to bower in the 40s.

Mr. Van Dyke warns that trend could eventually result in three or four parties and a fractured political system that is unworkable without the parliamentary coalitions European governments have.

But Chuck Alston, spokesman for the conservative Democratic leadership council, disagrees. "It's very hard to take on

the major parties and win," he said.

"The two parties still have a monopoly on access to the voters and a fairly firm fix on the campaign funds, so it's hard to see anybody winning without a huge amount of money and name recognition," he said. Mr. Alston noted that billionaire Ross Perot has both but won only 20 per cent of the vote when he ran as an independent in 1992.

But even without a direct challenge, the exodus puts Clinton leadership credentials in doubt and could cost him votes in the 1996 elections.

Since the 1994 elections, some 100 Democrats have switched parties at the federal and local levels, an unprecedented number.

According to Mr. Van Dyke, who also notes that those choosing to leave office have "never been as highly visible as this."

The five Democrats already retiring include Paul Simon of Illinois, David Pryor of Arkansas, Bennett Johnston of Louisiana, James Exon of Nebraska and Howell Heflin of Alabama.

Those who defected include senators Richard Shelby of Alabama and Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado.

## No sexy Martini commercials, please - we're British

LONDON (AFP) — British television has banned a commercial for Martini since it supposedly links alcohol with sex appeal, a spokesman said at the Independent Television Commission (ITC). The commercial, used in a number of other European countries, shows a young woman who gets up to walk toward an attractive Martini-drinking man. Her miniskirt catches on the chair and starts to unravel, gradually revealing her bare posterior. The commission has not received any complaints, but ruled that the commercial ran counter to its rules against advertising that suggests that drinking alcohol increases sex appeal.

## Sri Lanka begins 'women-only' bus service

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka has launched a "women-only" bus service following complaints that women were sexually harassed and sometimes molested using public transport, Transport Board Chairman Ramal Siriwardena said. The "women-only" buses — with a male crew — will operate on six routes to take office workers between the capital Colombo and its suburbs, said Mr. Siriwardena. The service could be expanded, if there is the demand. "We are getting a lot of complaints that ladies are harassed in crowded buses. That is why we decided on this special service," he said. More than half a million people travel to the capital daily but the limited public transport system has been unable to cope with the huge demand. Passengers are often packed like sardines in buses.

## Manchester, England — England — across the Baltic sea?

DUBLIN (AP) — Question: What do Minsk and Manchester have in common — aside from the letter m, the north, lots of industry, and plenty of bad weather? Answer: The Irish teenager headed up in the Belarussian capital. Anne Keane checked in at an Aer Lingus desk at Dublin's Shannon Airport on Aug. 21, saying she was on the B.A. (British Airways) flight to Manchester, England, a statement from the Irish airline said Thursday. Check-in staff misheard and booked her onto the other B.A.: a Belavia Airlines flight to Minsk, Belarus, a former Soviet republic. Ms. Keane, on her first-ever flight, did not realise she was on the wrong plane until staff told her two hours later. Flights from Dublin to Manchester normally take about 40 minutes. The teenager was met by an interpreter at Minsk, and flown back to Manchester. Aer Lingus flew members of her family to Manchester to join her on her stay with relatives, in compensation for the misunderstanding. Aer Lingus published its apology to Ms. Keane, whose exact age was not revealed the day she returned to Ireland.

## Brazil reveals list of 'phantom' employees

BRASILIA (R) — The Brazilian government has published a list of suspected "phantom" federal employees who do not work but receive a salary or who failed to prove they had fairly qualified for their jobs. The 12,529 employees named, some registered for as many as four different jobs, will be struck off the 576,000-strong federal payroll unless they can prove their right to their jobs by Sept. 20. The combined value of the monthly salaries of the employees on the list totalled more than \$11 million in August.



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This photograph from the National Hurricane Centre shows hurricane Luis heading towards Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands (AFP photo)

## Hurricane rakes small islands, heads for Puerto Rico

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (R) — Hurricane Luis ripped through Antigua and other islands of the northeastern Caribbean and aimed its swirling winds at the Virgin Islands and, Puerto Rico Wednesday.

Although reports were sketchy because of downed telephone lines, a spokesman for Antigua Prime Minister Lester Bird told a Trinidad radio station that about 65 per cent of the buildings on the island of 65,000 residents had been severely damaged.

"We've had a lot of damage," Antigua government spokesman Norman Gus Thomas said. "This was a mammoth hurricane compared to Hngo," he added, referring to the 1989 killer storm.

There were no initial reports of deaths on the twin island republic of Antigua and Barbuda, but the Caribbean News Agency reported two boys were injured by a collapsing roof. A Dominica fisherman was feared dead after trying

to save his boat Tuesday, and a tourist died in Gnadalupe Monday.

Hundreds were left homeless on Antigua, roofs were peeled off scores of buildings, including one emergency shelter, and some structures were flipped upside down by wind gusts clocked at up to 175 mph (282 kph), according to Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Rossello, who agreed to send some emergency supplies.

"The hurricane in Antigua has been devastating," Mr. Rossello told reporters, adding that he had spoken with Antigua's prime minister in a brief and static-filled telephone call.

Some of the flattened buildings were at tourist resorts overlooking Antigua's Barrier Reef, a famed snorkeling area. Other hotels were flooded from rising seawater or blinding rain of more than 12 inches (30 cm), according to amateur radio operators monitoring transmissions from Antigua.

At 11 p.m. edt (0300

GMT), Luis' winds eased to 125 mph (205 kph), but its huge diameter of 700 miles (1,126 km) remained a threat for islands in its path. Luis was 55 miles (90 km) north of St. Maarten, moving northwest at 8 mph (13 kmh).

The storm began battering the U.S. Virgin Islands early Wednesday, a pounding likely to last about 12 hours, according to forecasters. A slight turn to the north was expected to keep Luis' centre off Puerto Rico, but the island would still feel hurricane-force winds.

A shipment of 5,000 tons of medical supplies was to be flown to Antigua from Trinidad, after the government managed to get word out that its hospital was badly damaged.

On Anguilla, a 90 square-kilometre island, houses were destroyed and parked airplanes were blown off the airport runway, said Billy Penn, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Puerto Rico. Emergency aid for all of the Leeward Islands was

being coordinated by the U.S. State Department's Office of Federal Disaster Assistance, Mr. Penn said.

The hurricane left tens of thousands of Caribbean residents without electricity, running water or telephones. Thousands in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico crowded into emergency shelters as Luis' outer bands of tropical force-winds licked at the islands.

Forecasters said current weather patterns would likely steer Luis safely out to sea after passing Puerto Rico.

Many residents were well prepared for Luis because of vivid memories of hurricanes Hugo and Andrew, which rampaged through the Caribbean and through south Florida, respectively.

Hugo caused billions of dollars damage and killed more than two dozen when it screamed through the Caribbean in 1989. Andrew, the costliest hurricane in U.S. history, caused \$25 billion damage and 38 deaths in suburban Miami in 1992.

## Mexico peace talks reopen on government offer

SAN ANDRES LARRAINZAR, Mexico (R) — The Mexican government and Zapatista guerrillas returned to the negotiating table Tuesday and were expected to lock horns on an offer to include the rebels in wider national talks on political reform.

Ten rebel commanders travelled from mountain and jungle bases to this poor highlands town in the southern state of Chiapas to sit down with Interior Ministry negotiators.

The start of talks was overshadowed by an outbreak of violence Monday in the village of Nuevo Limar, 70 kilometres to the north, which increased political tensions.

Several hundred support-

ers of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) took 25 people hostage and burned at least 15 houses in the village, a stronghold of support for the opposition leftist Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), human rights workers said.

A spokeswoman for the Roman Catholic Church-run Fray Bartolome De Las Casas Human Rights Centre said the hostages were later released.

Five previous rounds of Chiapas peace talks have stalled as the Zapatistas have demanded nationwide reforms such as fair elections while the government has insisted any accord be limited to the state where the rebels took up arms.

In a bid to break the dead-

lock, President Ernesto Zedillo last weekend offered to give the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) a seat at all-party talks on national democratic reforms.

A spokesman for Mr. Zedillo said nothing had been worked out yet on how exactly the guerrillas would take part in national talks, but he said the government may not necessarily insist on them giving up their weapons first.

The government's chief negotiator, Marco Antonio Berhal, said late Monday that the Zapatistas had been aiming too high with their national demands.

Rebel leaders say the talks in San Andres are "exhausted" in their current form and

have called on political parties and civilian groups to join the peace process.

A group of rebel commanders this week said they wanted more precise details of Mr. Zedillo's offer before agreeing to join national democracy talks and insisted they would not lay down their weapons until their demands for indigenous rights and greater democracy have been met.

The Zapatistas launched their rebellion on New Year's Day, 1994, and at least 150 people were killed in the first 10 days. There has been virtually no fighting since then and the Zapatistas' influence has been on the wane in recent months.

# Senate supports Clinton's total nuclear test ban

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate gave tacit support Tuesday to President Bill Clinton's policy to ban all U.S. nuclear tests.

In a compromise proposed by Sen. James Exon, it kept \$50 million in a \$265 billion defence authorisation bill to prepare for experimental tests but added a provision by voice vote specifying that the bill did not authorise such tests.

The Nebraska Democrat said the bill allows preparation for the tests only in case a proposed international comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty is not approved next year.

Mr. Clinton announced on Aug. 11 that the United States wants international approval of a test ban treaty permitting no tests, not even experimental ones with explosions equivalent to about four pounds of TNT.

The Senate faced a vote later Tuesday on whether to compromise on a U.S. anti-missile defence plan that Clinton administration officials say would violate the 1972 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

The compromise worked out by senior senators and scheduled for an evening vote would allow faster development of a U.S.

defence against limited missile attacks but back off on provisions Clinton advisers say would violate the ABM treaty.

The Senate voted 51-49 last month in favour of a new U.S. policy in the bill for constructing a number of anti-missile missile sites by 2003 to defend against limited missile attacks even though the ABM treaty allows just one.

The White House threatened to veto the proposal. Officials including Secretary of State Warren Christopher said it would violate the ABM treaty and so risk Russian refusal to go ahead

with two treaties reducing long-range nuclear weapons.

The compromise would order development of the "multiple site" anti-missile defence for construction by 2003 but require a decision later on whether actually to build it.

It would also direct Mr. Clinton to seek negotiations with Russia on revising the ABM treaty to permit the U.S. multi-site system and, if negotiations fail, to consult with Congress on legally withdrawing from the treaty.

## Amnesty urges U.N. to rework host-country accord after China

BEIJING (AFP) — Amnesty International called Wednesday on the United Nations to re-examine host-country agreements for its conferences in the wake of China's handling of the gathering on women here.

"We feel that the country agreements between the U.N. and those governments that host world conferences should be revisited," said Pierre Sane, secretary general of the international human rights watchdog.

"I think the U.N. should obtain from those governments certain basic commitments" on access and visas, providing facilities that are conducive "to debate and an outcome that can be useful" and guaranteeing freedom of expression, Sane told

journalists.

"These are really basics if we want world conferences to succeed, so we think the U.N. should, before holding the next world conference, evaluate this conference organisationally and see what needs to be redrafted in the country agreements," he said.

Controversy surrounding China's handling of the fourth World Women's Conference began in April when it shifted the site of the gathering's NGO Forum from central Beijing, to Huairou county, 50 kilometres north of the capital, in an apparent effort to isolate participants.

Its subsequent refusal to grant visas to certain delegates and its surveillance and harassment of many par-

ticipants since the Forum began last week has drawn further criticism from Amnesty and other quarters, including the U.S. government.

China has been accused of violating its agreement with Forum organisers, who are afforded little protection by the U.N.'s separate host-country document.

Amnesty's representatives said the existing U.N. agreements, which were drawn up before the emergence of numerous NGOs, were very broad and failed to go into the details needed to guarantee basic rights.

They said signals that security at Huairou had eased earlier this week were short-lived and that the situation had not improved, with

participants still being followed, photographed and videoed, and materials being confiscated.

Certain NGO delegates were also under heavy surveillance by agents from their own countries, including Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Sudan, they said.

Despite the abuses, Sane urged a refocusing of attention on the issues now under debate by delegations at the inter-governmental conference that opened in Beijing Monday.

He urged delegations to remove some 651 brackets remaining around disputed sections of the draft platform for action, saying "It is astounding at this stage that the document is still laced with fundamental inconsistencies."

## Nobel lashes back at paper over reports of influence

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A month before the 1995 Nobel Prize announcements, a selection committee is waging war on a leading newspaper over a series of reports charging that a drug firm influenced the medicine award nine years ago.

The Nobel Medicine Prize Committee, angered over the report, claims the Dagens Nyheter newspaper has ignored its side of the story and is demanding a review of journalistic ethics in Sweden.

The series of articles by Dagens Nyheter is the most serious attack in years on the prestigious but secretive Nobel Committees. It takes aim at one of the organisation's sacred principles — independence — that has helped make the prizes the most coveted in the world.

The newspaper reported that Sweden's Karolinska Institute, which picks the medicine winner, succumbed in 1986 to an elaborate lobbying effort by an Italian drug firm, Fidia, to win the prize for its researcher, Rita Levi Montalcini.

Several years earlier, Ms. Montalcini discovered nerve

growth factors in the human nervous system. Her prize in 1986 was worth about \$290,000.

Fidia did not get any money from the award or profit directly from her discovery, but wanted the prestige and publicity from her prize, the paper said.

Its year-long investigation was based on documents, interviews and statements, including one by a former Italian Health Ministry official accused of taking bribes. He said Fidia spent \$8.4 million to win the award.

The newspaper said Fidia built ties with researchers linked to the Karolinska Institute, organised symposia for Ms. Montalcini, and even paid the way for a former Nobel Committee member and his wife to a seminar in Spain, the paper said.

The paper's series began appearing Sunday, and the initial story did not contain comment from the Prize Selection Committee. Tuesday's edition included a story on reaction from committee members: some denied the charges while others refused to comment

until the series is finished. Officials of Fidia, which later went bankrupt, have not commented on the reports.

Ms. Montalcini has denied the reports.

In a statement, the Nobel Committee said nobody influenced the award, although it admitted many try. It said a few scientists cannot sway the whole process, Ms. Montalcini had been a candidate for years and the scientific community has applauded the award.

"By adding different unrelated facts to each other, Dagens Nyheter has constructed a 'story' that gives a false impression," said the statement, signed by committee Chairman Sten Grillner and Secretary Nils Ringertz.

"We ... will raise the question of how the ethical rules of the press should be changed in order to avoid this type of devastating journalism," the statement said.

In an interview, Mr. Grillner recommended new rules granting aggrieved subjects the same amount of space in a publication to respond to each article. The voluntary rule could be enforced by the independent public press

ombudsman, created in 1968 by Swedish publications to give people a way to rebut media reports, he said.

That suggestion was dismissed by the ombudsman, Arne Jigenius, who said his office already urges publications to print rebuttals. He has not yet received a complaint from the Nobel Committee.

One of the reporters on the project, Bn G. Andersson, also scoffed at the Nobel suggestion.

"I'm not at all afraid of a discussion of our ethics," Mr. Andersson said. "And this shows how dangerous this (investigation) must be for them."

Mr. Andersson said the core issue is secrecy, which makes it possible to abuse the Nobel Prize selection process.

This year's six prizes each are worth about \$987,000, and will be announced in the first half of October. Five were created by industrialist Alfred Nobel in 1901, and Nobel Memorial Prize in economics was added in 1968.

## Ambush underscores Angola's fragile peace

LUANDA (AP) — An ambush that killed at least seven diamond miners is the latest in a series of violent incidents that show how fragile Angola's shaky peace process is.

The seven miners — four Angolans and three Filipinos — died and eight others were injured Friday when gunmen ambushed their truck as it left the Nufutu Mine near the provincial capital Lucapa before dawn, mine officials said.

The government military claimed 24 miners, including five Filipinos and two Britons, had died. It blamed the attack on UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which last November signed peace accords with the government to end 20 years of civil war.

But the British embassy denied any Britons were among the victims. A mine official, who accompanied the wounded back to Luanda, cited the lesser casualty toll.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted one kidnapped worker who then escaped as say-

ing the assailants were rogue UNITA troops. Others among the wounded pinned the blame on "ninfas," the local nickname for government crack police troops.

U.N. envoy Abiome Blondin Beye told reporters Tuesday there were indications the incident could have been a clash between rival diamond mining companies. He declined to name the firms.

"Whoever did it, it is symptomatic that across vast tracts of the country there is no law other than gun law," said Andrew Manley, an Angola watcher for the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit.

"It shows there are deep faults in the peace process," he added. "It will be quite a while before there can be a return to any kind of normalcy."

the diamond-rich Lunda provinces, deep in the country's interior, have become Angola's "wild east" since the peace accords were signed.

Former South African army officers, who once fought alongside UNITA, now help guard state-owned diamond mines, run with the

help of foreigners.

Rogue rebel and government troops frequently stage ambushes and make off with hauls of gems, although Friday's attack was one of the bloodiest so far.

Under the peace plan, a new army of 90,000 is to be formed from the 180,000 armed troops currently fielded by both sides.

But their demobilisation and fusion is to be overseen by a 7,000-plus force of U.N. peacekeepers and, so far, only about a half of the promised blue helmets have arrived.

The first 100 Brazilian peacekeepers landed at Luanda Airport Tuesday and a ship carrying another 100 was expected to dock in port later in the day.

The Brazilian contingent of engineers, to be posted in Calomboloca, 70 kilometres outside Luanda, is to specialise in repairing roads and bridges wrecked by the war.

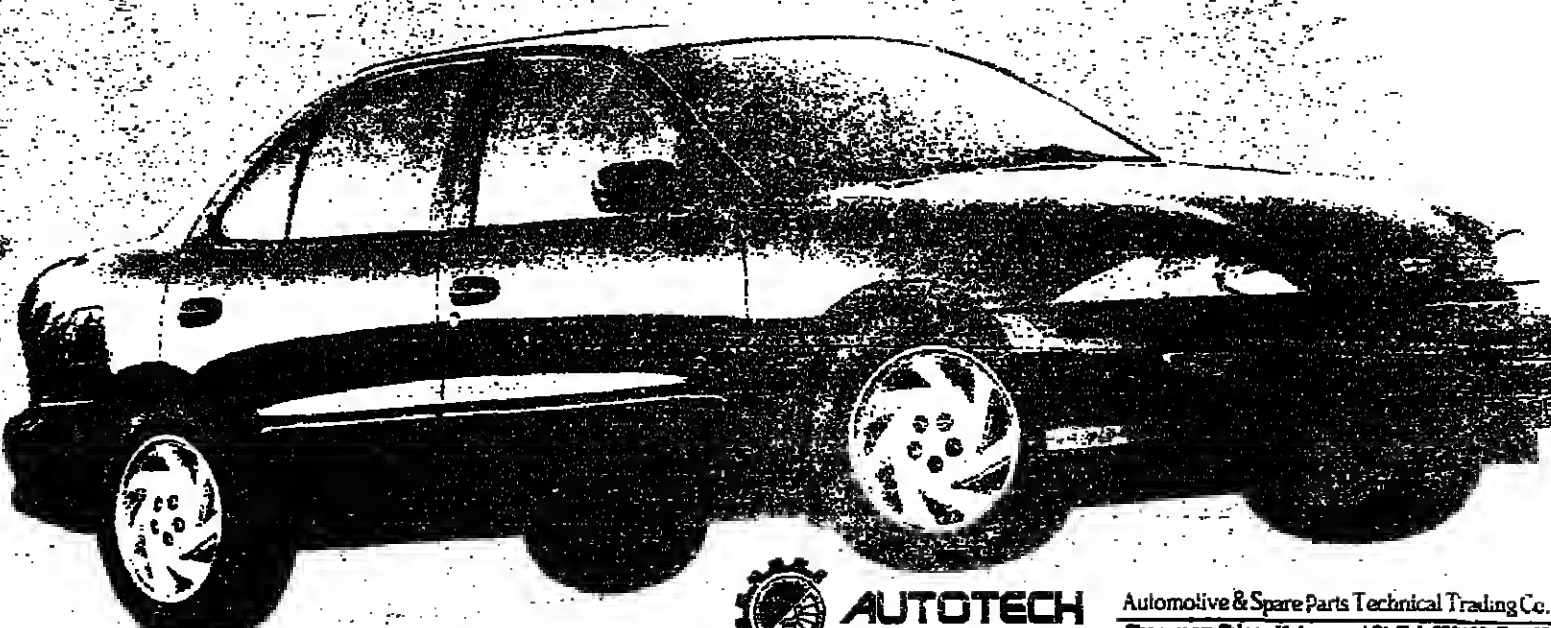
But even with the full U.N. force in place, it will be difficult to control rogue elements who earn their living by what Mr. Manley calls "freelancing."




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## Little to celebrate

ISRAEL'S POMPOUS celebration of the 3000th anniversary of King David's takeover of Jerusalem Tuesday was an act of provocation of the first order. King David was not the first, nor the last leader who conquered the Holy City. The mere fact that the Jews conquered Jerusalem implies that it had belonged to another people before them. Sure enough, those people were the Canaanite Arabs, who were the first to inhabit the city.

The Jews were one of many nations and religions that captured Jerusalem and made it their capital. Jerusalem fell into Arab and Muslim hands in the seventh century and continued to remain under their domination until the 11th century, when the Crusaders wrested it from them. In 1187, however, Saladdin recaptured the city and it remained effectively under Islamic rule until World War I, when the Ottoman Empire was defeated by the Allied powers and Jerusalem came under direct British colonial rule till 1948.

The decision, therefore, to mark Israel's control of the city can only invite other nations and religions to commemorate their own periodic capture of Jerusalem. The end result is to rekindle old wounds that may arouse afresh old religious rivalries and animosities.

Whatever the length or timing of their control of the city, the early Israelites cannot stake a unilateral claim to a place that is equally holy to Christians and Muslims. Both Muslims and Christians have grounds to celebrate the capture of the city in one era or another.

No wonder that only a few nations represented in Israel had accepted Israel's official invitation to take part in Tuesday's celebrations. Even Washington and other major Western capitals boycotted these provocative festivities. The message being that the Israelis' claim to the occupied city in its entirety is illegal, unacceptable and will never be recognised. We cannot but express our satisfaction with the decision of the international community to cast a negative vote on Israel's deliberate policy of antagonising the Muslim and Christian worlds on such a burning and sensitive issue as that of Jerusalem.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Wednesday described NATO air strikes against Serbian positions in the former Yugoslavia as helping the Western powers to regain credibility in the eyes of the world. In reviewing the atrocities committed by the Serbs against the Bosnians, Tawfiq Abul Rub said that the Serbs were supported by the Russians for ethnic and religious considerations over the past three years during which the NATO powers refrained from taking any action to deter the aggressors. The world was shocked at these attitudes on the part of the major world powers and felt pessimistic about NATO's obvious indifference to the military operations, said the writer. But in the light of the recent sweeping Croat attacks, which seemed to be supported by NATO, and the Alliance's effective air strikes against the Serbs the world began to see a new light and a new hope for an imminent end to the sufferings of the Bosnians and an approach to a settlement to the ethnic conflict in the embattled nation, added the writer.

A WRITER in Al Dustour Wednesday described Israel's celebrations of the 3000th anniversary of King David's conquest of the city as a severe blow to the Arabs and Muslims because it consecrates the Jewish state's denial of other religions' rights to Jerusalem. Mohammad Kawash said that Jerusalem holds the key to peace and war, noting that none of the invaders of the city over the centuries was able to settle permanently in it, and the invaders had to leave no matter how long they stayed there. The writer said that the ceremonies staged in the city are bound to inflame the feelings of Arabs and Muslims because these celebrations constitute provocation that could jeopardise the peace process. The Rabin government, said the writer, says "no Israel without Jerusalem" but we say "no peace without Jerusalem." Tampering with the Jerusalem question, he said, is like playing with fire.

## The View from Academia

# Courteous motoring: A possible solution to an ongoing crisis

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubch

ONE MAJOR cause of the deteriorating traffic situation in our society is the behaviour of the motorists themselves. It is a fact that a significant number of our road-users drive rudely and too aggressively, thus making driving on our roads extremely uncomfortable, risky and life-threatening. The overall percentage of reckless drivers throughout the Kingdom is indeed quite high. Judging from what one actually sees on the road, one would not be exaggerating to say that at least half of our motorists drive in a manner which is not at all acceptable.

I say the "overall" percentage because not all those who drive rudely, aggressively or recklessly think of themselves (or actually are) rude, aggressive or reckless drivers. The motives and psychology of motorists who "misbehave" on the road are obviously complex, even though the result or outcome is the same.

It may be beneficial, for the purpose of accuracy, to distinguish between rude, aggressive and reckless drivers and those who drive rudely, aggressively and recklessly. The first category refers to those motorists who are consciously and deliberately violating the codes of decency and safety. They are careless, insensitive, playful, silly, suicidal, impolite, subversive, sadistic and misguided individuals who are what they are for a variety of reasons. Their behaviour on the road is no different from their behaviour in the office, at home and in the neighbourhood. Whether we like it or not, there are bad people out there.

The second category comprises those people who think they are forced to behave rudely, aggressively and recklessly. Deep down, such people are civil, nice, polite, altruistic, hospitable, unselfish and so forth. You meet them at work, at home and in the neighbourhood and you find them extremely courteous, likeable, reasonable, sensitive, etc. But out there on the road, they are entirely different. The minute they drive, a demon, a monster, a vampire, a werewolf or a ghoul possesses them.

The reasons standing behind such remarkable transformation in the behaviour of individuals belonging to this

category vary from one person to another, but two seem to stand out above the rest. The first has to do with the conception (to a great extent a misconception) of what a "good" driver is in our society and the second with the desire among motorists to defend and assert themselves.

If you listen to people in informal gatherings (forget the formal in which people say what they ought to say not what they really feel and think), a "good" motorist is the one who drives fast, who is extremely skillful, who zigzags on a highway, who gets extremely close to hitting the vehicle in front of him before passing it, who does not let anyone pass him, who puts one hand on the steering wheel and lets the other bang out of the window casually — not the one who gives the right of way to others, who sticks to his own lane, who drives at a normal speed, who is alert, who is openminded, who is civil and courteous, who drives safely, etc. This is the image many people in our society try to live up to. It is interesting, linguistically and culturally, that the "good" driver is referred to in many circles as the "bitter" driver. This is, of course, the greatest compliment you can imagine. Sadly, many of our motorists are "bitter" indeed.

Other motorists behave the way they behave because they believe that you cannot survive on our roads unless you become aggressive, rude and reckless. Many of them believe in a saying which is widely-quoted in our society, a saying which is at times true but at times false: If you do not become a wolf, wolves will eat you. To apply this saying on the road is, in my opinion, a big mistake. We cannot remedy a misbehaviour by a misbehaviour. On the road, people are not judged according to their reasons and motives, but according to their performance. A motorist who behaves rudely is ultimately rude. But he is also dangerous, and is contributing to the messy road situation from which we are all suffering. Those motorists who provoke you on the road are misguided, irresponsible and stupid; and if you respond in kind, they are turning you (without your knowing it) into a misguided, irresponsible and (excuse me for saying it) stupid motorist. What do they

care?

Unfortunately, drivers belonging to the two categories are to be found anywhere and everywhere in our society — in the city and in the countryside, among the illiterate as well as the educated, among the young as well as the old, among the men as well as the women, among the rich as well as the poor, among the ugly as well as the handsome, among those who drive the brand new Mercedes and BMW as well as those who drive the old Subaru and Lada, etc.

The solution here lies in the hand of the motorists themselves, i.e. you and I. Let's forget the authorities for the time being. Let's forget what the police can and cannot do and ask ourselves (us the caring and responsible) what we can do.

The solution is simply to be courteous. Yes, even to those who are rude and unnecessarily aggressive. If someone is in a hurry, justifiably or not, let us give them the right of way, even if the right of way is ours. If someone tries to provoke us, let them go in peace. If someone is speeding maniacally behind us, let's make room for them (even pull over, if we have to) and let them pass. If we behave in a civil, courteous manner towards others, we may make them feel a little ashamed of themselves and thus rethink their behaviour, or at least avoid an accident. But we if we put it in our head to be courteous, cool and to take it easy, we may spare ourselves the psychological trauma that comes as a result of our response to provocation. There is nothing to be gained from responding in kind to provocation but harm, discomfort and danger. The worst thing that can happen to us on the road is to be emotional about others' behaviour and to drive and respond instinctively. Let our minds, our reason, our politeness and our civil manners and spirit guide our behaviour.

We descend from a hospitable, courteous culture. Let's be ourselves. Let's deal with other motorists the way we deal with guests in our homes. This is something we can do, if we put our mind to it. There is nothing to lose but much to gain.

The writer is co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal. His article is reprinted from yesterday's issue of the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Dan Leon

MONDAY'S MAGNIFICENT firework display in the skies of Jerusalem cannot alter the political reality of the city on the ground. Neither can bombastic political statements.

At the opening ceremony for the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations, the prime minister repeated that "undivided Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people and the capital of the state of Israel. Undivided Jerusalem is ours."

Undivided? On the same day I tried to get a taxi from western Jerusalem to an address in the east. The driver, who looked at me as if I was mad, refused. As he drove off I saw the sticker on his back window about our rights to the whole of Eretz Yisrael. What a world of fantasy!

Mayor Olmert had told the European ambassadors who decided not to attend the opening ceremony — they were to be joined in their absence by most of the diplomatic representatives in Israel, including the U.S. ambassador — that "Jerusalem was the capital of Israel before you, and will be the united capital of Israel long after your protests."

This demagogic cocktail doesn't help to unite the city.

The view that because we were here first we have exclusive political rights in Jerusalem is about as logical

as claiming that 3,000 years of Judaism since King David carries more weight than 2,000 years of Christianity, or 1,400 years of Islam. Faith can't be measured by putting the data into a computer and pulling out the results of the calculation. Jewish rights in Jerusalem are unchallengeable. It is only when they become exclusive that they are untenable.

Jerusalem will be united only when the 419,000 Jews and 160,000 Palestinian residents of the city agree it should be so. Unilateral decisions are not only illegal in international law, they

are also incapable of being put into effect on the ground — except by force. And as we know from the lessons of the intifada, there are limits to the efficacy of force.

Our case would be stronger were it not for our record of discriminating against East Jerusalemites since 1967 in every sphere of life. For example, approximately one third of the population who pay their taxes receive less than 10 per cent of the budget for municipal services.

Jerusalem, Orient House and Palestinian labels on school textbooks. The arguments will exercise no influence over the way in which Palestinians and international public opinion regard Orient House as the political centre of the Palestinian people to what may be the future capital of the Palestinian state.

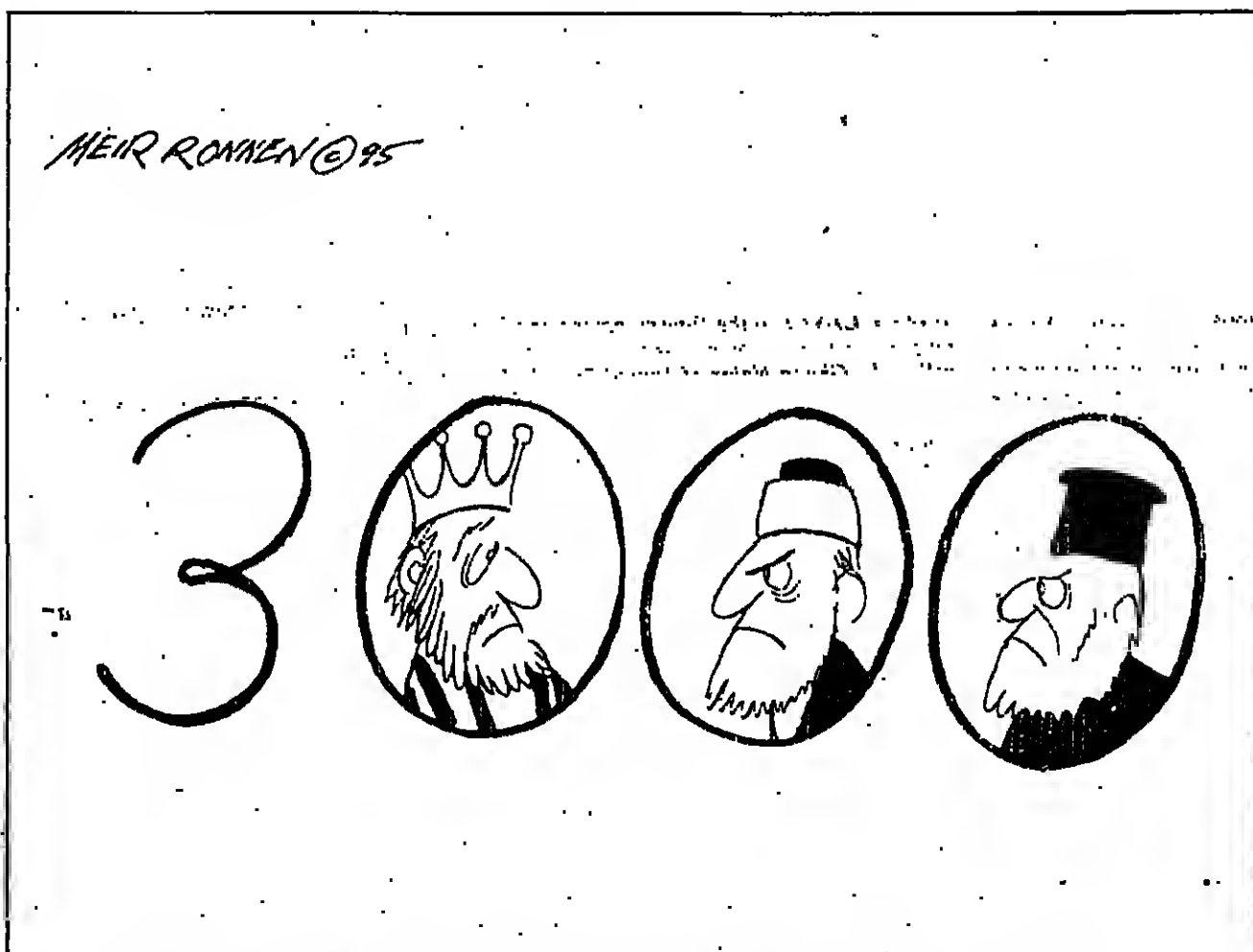
Teddy Kollek suggested that the Palestinian capital should be in Ramallah. Before 1949, Golda Meir proposed Haifa as Israel's capital, while Ben-Gurion suggested Kurnub, a site in the Negev. Such ideas are quickly consigned to the dustbin of history.

The idea that Jerusalem can serve as the capital of both Israel and of Palestine has been attacked as impractical and unprecedented. This is arguable. But the status quo is also impractical. It pertained in the territories for 27 years, but in the end of the reality proved stronger than the occupation. Sooner or later Jerusalemites will have to learn to share the city peacefully.

Amos Elon wrote some four years before the 3000 festivities that "Jerusalem is a city loved too well and yet never quite wisely.... Almost everywhere you turn, the chords of memory swell the chorus of nationalism and faith. A little forgetfulness — or compromise — seems unlikely under these circumstances."

Compromise in Jerusalem entails not a decision to give up our sovereignty, but a readiness to enter into a partnership with others in mutual recognition. That would be "loving wisely."

## Loving wisely



## Un peu trop radical for Chirac

After only three months, a resignation crisis has revealed a deep split in France's new government

ties — creating jobs and cutting the domestic budget deficit — were irreconcilable. Within three months it seems to have become clear that one of these projects had to take precedence. Mr. Juppé thought it should be social cohesion and job creation; Mr. Madelin thought it should be cutting the deficit. Mr. Juppé won.

There is room for different interpretations of what happened and why. The kindest view is that Mr. Juppé always intended, and still intends, to change the way the French labour market operates; but believes that everything could be lost if the public sector and the unions get wind of what he really has in mind. According to this view, Mr. Madelin's only fault was to be too frank. As one French commentator put it, he acted like a "bull in a china shop," while Mr. Juppé moves "like a cat with velvet paws."

That theory might have some substance had Mr. Madelin appeared to be

quietly getting at least some of his own way on the deficit — but patently he was not. In preparations for the 1996 budget he had mooted cuts in employers' contributions to social provision for their employees, cuts in the top rate of income tax, a swingeing reduction in defence procurement and a reduction in the number of people employed directly by government. The draft budget allocations show that all his preferences were overruled by the prime minister's office.

Yet Mr. Madelin was far from being an unknown quantity when he was appointed. He made no secret of his views, either during the campaign or afterwards. Indeed, a number of them figured in Mr. Chirac's manifesto, which Mr. Madelin helped to write.

They included the overriding need to cut the deficit, reductions in higher rates of income tax and better conditions for small and medium-sized businesses. As Mr. Madelin said with heavy irony after

his dismissal: "I doubt that people voted for Mr. Chirac in the expectation that he would implement the policies of the trade unions."

What may have been underestimated, however, by Mr. Chirac and by Mr. Juppé, was the essential difference between themselves and Mr. Madelin. He is radical and ideological by temperament; they are pragmatists — in both the best and worst senses of the word. The policy differences that result are very similar in nature to those that in Britain have divided Thatcherites from old-style Tories.

During the election campaign this crucial distinction was blurred, perhaps deliberately. Mr. Chirac was advised by his daughter, Claude, that "change" was the ticket on which the young would be prepared to elect him, and that "social cohesion" was a desired element of that change. Against the old establishment candidate Edouard Balladour, Mr. Chirac was able to present himself suc-

cessfully as the outsider, the "radical" candidate, the personification of change.

Once in power, however, things became more complicated. Mr. Madelin continued to believe that if the country could pay its way, many of its other difficulties would solve themselves automatically. The franc would be firm, interest rates would come down, lower employers' contributions would reduce the cost of labour, cuts on state benefits would encourage people to take work, and the whole unwieldy edifice of the state would contract to the point where it was helping, not hindering, individual enterprise and responsibility.

Mr. Chirac appeared to have some sympathy with this view, which is doubtless one reason he gave Mr. Madelin the key economics ministry he wanted. But he also has sympathy for the view that only the state is powerful enough to organise job creation on the scale he thinks France needs if it is to reduce un-

employment. He also wanted to foster the all-important "social cohesion."

How you define social cohesion, however, depends to a large extent on how you define the "social" part of it. Mr. Chirac repeatedly alludes to "Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé seem to share a very traditional perception of social division: between haves and have-nots; 'capitalists' and 'workers.' This is the gap they think should be narrowed."

Mr. Madelin sees the social fracturing in different — his advisers contend, more "modern" — terms, as between those who are "protected" and those who are "exposed." In the first group are not so much the "bosses," as the bosses of state-protected enterprises and those in secure (often public sector or state subsidised) employment. In the second are entrepreneurs, small businessmen, as well as those who cannot penetrate the establishment world of "secure" work.

Mr. Madelin's idea of social cohesion would entail not only improving the conditions of those in the "exposed" sector, but challenging some of the advantages enjoyed by those in the "protected" sector.

The Independent



## SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

### Converging on Amman as part of MENA mania

It is still unclear whether Prime Minister of Japan Tomiichi Murayama's planned tour of the Middle East region will include a stop in Jordan. The Japanese government leader is said to be particularly keen to have an audience with His Majesty King Hussein and while it is uncertain whether the King will actually be in Amman at the time of the visit which is scheduled to start on Sept. 14, Tokyo is still on hold. What is near certain, though, is the newly sudden visit planned by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. Considered as "very important," the visit by Mr. Gonzalez and his as yet unnamed accompanying team, is expected to be a dual-mission attached, as well, to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to convene in Amman next month and the Barcelona conference on the European Union (EU) Mediterranean policy, which is scheduled for November. First, as Spain holds the current presidency of the EU, Mr. Gonzalez' trip means that the EU is coming for a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian leadership. And second, the Spanish premier comes on a bilateral mission to further solidify Jordanian-Spanish relations. Both missions, observers say, are a confirmation of the importance attached to Jordan and its role in the Middle East.

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**WINEP & COMPANY:** And from the land of the "peace broker," the United States, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP), the Washington-based organization which describes itself as "a public charitable foundation committed to scholarly research and informed debate on ways to build peace, security and prosperity in the Middle East," has linked up with Jordan's Institute of Diplomacy to convene its annual policy conference in Amman — "our first-ever conference in an Arab capital city," says WINEP Executive Director Robert Saloff. That it is the institute's first such forum in the Arab World is attributable to the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty because, until that event, the work of WINEP has been, and most certainly continues, to be guided by an agenda bent on Israeli interests. Dr. Saloff, who succeeded Martin Indyk (now U.S. ambassador to Israel) as head of WINEP, has pulled together a serious roster of speakers "to evaluate the Jordan-Israel peace experience one year on to assess the potential of building on the model of that agreement to promote regional security and economic development." Those speakers are to include His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti, the Kingdom's ambassador to Israel, Marwan Muasher, Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shimon Shamir, Abdullah Toukan, science advisor to King Hussein, General David Ivri, director-general of Israel's ministry of defence, Ambassador Samuel Lewis, former ambassador to Israel and former U.S. State Department policy planning director. Among the other participants expected to attend are former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco (who in the early 70's drew shouts of "La, La Sisco!" from masses of Jordanians protesting a mission he was sent on at the time to the Middle East); Vice President of the military aerospace giant Northrop-Grumman James Roche; former staff director of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Graeme Bannerman; and Director of the Rand Corporation's Middle East Programme and a former under-secretary of defence Zalmay Khalilzad. This latter group would appear to be the one most interested in what Dr. Saloff said was another objective of the conference: "to examine the U.S. role in ensuring the success of the Jordan-Israel peace effort and in building upon that achievement for wider peace process objectives."

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**MILES FROM HOME:** From the South American continent, Brazilian Foreign Ministry Assistant Secretary General Evan Canbrava, who is concluding a three-day visit today after preparing for official Brazilian participation at

the MENA conference, took the road less travelled Wednesday and visited Jordan's famous desert castles. Mr. Canbrava, who was once Brazil's ambassador to Israel, indicated that Brazil's minister of industry and trade, who happens to be a woman, is tipped to be the official appointed to head Brazil's delegation to the conference. Meanwhile Ambassador Fernando Alves tonight hosts a reception to celebrate Brazil's 173rd anniversary of its independence. It was not known whether Mr. Canbrava would delay his return home to partake in what are usually highly festive celebrations.

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**PAINTING THE RIGHT PICTURE:** While the government and private sectors scurry to pull together plans, proposals, and preparations in time for the October Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit, Mark Senior, a free-lance writer for Time magazine has been working out of his room at the InterContinental Hotel since Sunday putting together a country profile on Jordan for the world renowned publication. The British Mr. Senior's forte is writing country profiles — his portfolio includes Lebanon, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, and Poland. His job here is to produce a special section to coincide with the MENA conference, and thus appear in the issue to be published the week of the conference. Admitting that he has been given a free-hand in how to develop the section, Mr. Senior said he would focus on most appropriate elements which, he said, in the case of Jordan he sees as "trying to paint a softer picture of a country of genuinely outgoing, friendly people." "I am conscious of 'popular' image which is generally used to portray the people of this region and thus I believe others have a misguided impression of the Arab World." His aim then in the profile, he said, is to try to draw attention to the riches in Jordan's culture, history, natural attractions and diversity. Having painted that picture, he will address the tourism industry "first and foremost." Mr. Senior cited a recent survey conducted by the World Travel and Tourism Council published in Time on June 12 which identified main regions of world and said the Middle East was slated for the greatest growth by a very large margin. Among that region's countries, it said, Jordan, because of its natural attraction, was probably the most interesting and could expect a soaring growth in tourism over the next 10 years. The eight to 10-page profile is financed by Jordanian commercial enterprises. Mr. Senior, who is on his first trip to Jordan, says "My heart is very much in the Arab Middle East." He finds Jordan's continued willingness to reach rapprochement after having been the victim of so many disasters highly admirable. It should be worth the wait to see how Jordan steps out on the Time magazine stage, directed by Mr. Senior.

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**WHAT LIST?** If the Time magazine profile succeeds in its mission, we know of one travel agent who will be quite relieved. Ghada Nojor of United Travel, the general sales agent for United Airlines in Jordan, had a real score last week when in a conversation with CNN correspondent in Jordan Ben Wedeman, he erroneously told her that Jordan had been placed on the U.S. State Department's travel advisory listing. Najjar, who was already disturbed by what she saw as sensational reporting in the Western media about the precarious situation that Jordan had been placed in following the defection of Iraqi General Hussein Kamal and two of President Saddam Hussein's daughters to Jordan, promptly contacted the Ministry of Tourism to check on Wedeman's allegation. The U.S. embassy denied there was any such categorising of Jordan. Wedeman, who took over CNN operations in Jordan from Stefan Kononis, fortunately did not repeat the erroneous story. Just imagine the consequences on all sides if he had.

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**LEAVING NO LOOSE ENDS:** Jean-Pierre Pierard Saturday leaves his post in Amman as economic counsellor of the Delegation of the Commission of European Communities, just about a month ahead of the MENA conference. But here since April 1991, Mr. Pierard has had sufficient time to experience major developments affecting Jordan and the region and leaves a well-set up office for his successor, Ramon Mestres, a Spaniard, who has already arrived in Amman with his wife and two boys from the EU headquarters in Brussels. Mr. Pierard, who has had fulfilling postings in Bangkok and Delhi prior to arriving in Amman, thought that Jordan would be a quiet posting. But coming in on the tail end of the Gulf War, witnessing the process of peacemaking, and being involved in the building up of relations between Jordan and the EU through the new economic agreement, the MENA and Barcelona summits, Mr. Pierard says that Amman has been his best posting yet. He will return to base in Brussels and be in charge of more than 3,000 EU personnel posted abroad. The two-to-four-year assignment will involve much travelling, but mostly in Europe, he says. As for his family, wife Solange, a popular player in Amman's bridge club, left earlier with the couple's sons Thomas and Jean-Jacques (Amman Little Leaguers) who had to return to school. The Pierards will be missed by all those who got to know them.

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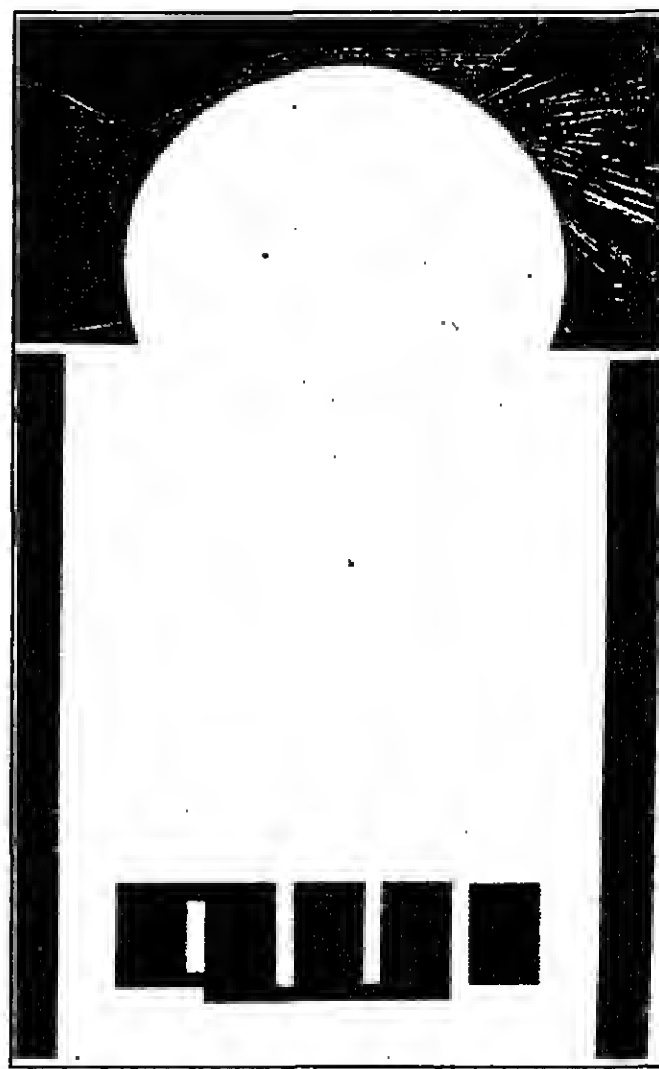
**UNIVERSITY HOP:** Meanwhile, beyond the realm of MENA mania, Amin Mahmoud has taken on the reigns of the presidency of yet another university — this time, Amman University — and this time, Dr. Mahmoud says, he will be in that seat for a while. Dr. Mahmoud began his university presidency track as a founder and the first president of the Jordan University for Women in 1990. Two years into that tenure, Dr. Mahmoud, a historian, was appointed as minister of culture in the reshuffled Cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Mojaal (who, himself, having been president of the University of Jordan, was asked to be an advisor to the first women's university in the Kingdom). When Dr. Mahmoud took over the ministry, another former University of Jordan President and former Minister of Culture, Mahmoud Samra, succeeded him as president of the Jordan University for Women. Dr. Mahmoud's short-lived tenure as minister was followed by his appointment to a second private university, Zeituna. Now only one academic year after assuming that post, Dr. Mahmoud says he moved to Amman University where he expects that the combination of it being the first of the private Jordanian universities and his own varied experience in this sphere of higher education will make for significant opportunities in the years to come. Zeituna University is currently being steered by Acting President Khaled Zoubi, another alumnus of the Mojaal cabinet having served as minister of parliamentary affairs.

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**NEW NHF FACES:** A vivacious, people-friendly new team is heading the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF). It is made up of Ibrahim Badran, as executive director and Abba Amawi, as Director of the Communications and Public Relations. With NHF celebrating its 10th anniversary this month, the two Ph.D.s bring diverse backgrounds and experiences into the new recipe for NHF's venture into a second decade. Dr. Badran, who received his doctorate in electrical engineering from Queen Mary College London University, was brought in from his post as advisor at the Prime Ministry since 1991. At 56, Dr. Badran moved from electrical engineering and energy related fields to "peace engineering" as coordinator general of the Middle East peace process while at the Prime Ministry. His congenial nature should blend well with the work of NHF which has pursued a determined policy of improving the quality of life for the Jordanian family. Dr. Amawi holds a masters degree and Ph.D. in comparative government and political theory with specialisation in

the Middle East from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She left her post as visiting professor at Georgetown to join NHF and put her knowledge and experience to the service of her country specifically in advocating women's and children's rights, promotion of civil society's institutions, and the process of political liberalisation in the Arab World. Congratulations to Drs. Badran and Amawi on their new assignments and to Noor Al Hussein Foundation on its 10th anniversary.

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A painting by Rafiq Laham

**RACKING UP AWARDS:** Plastic artist Rafiq Laham is in the meanwhile revelling in the satisfaction of having recently won a gold medal for his etching and printing art work at the biennial Syrian Art Festival that was held in August in the coastal town of Latakia. Mr. Laham, who is advisor to the Minister of Tourism, is a veteran and pioneer artist. He studied art in Italy and taught for the past 30 years. He has exhibited his works in many countries including the U.S., Spain, Germany, Denmark, and Britain. Rafiq Laham is not new to awards. He won Jordan's Plastic Artists Award in 1992 and was honoured by King Hussein with Al Kawkab Medal.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Russian readers swept away by steamy sagas

By Angela Charlton  
The Associated Press

**MOSCOW** — On Moscow's crowded subway, a woman sits reading intently, locked in "The Never-ending Embrace." Nearby stands a teen-age girl, swept away in "A Hurricane of Temptation." These absorbed readers have caught on to Russia's latest, if less than greatest, literary trend: The romance novel.

"We all need something sexy after hearing about Yeltsin or Grachev all day," said Natalya Volchkova, referring to the

president and his defence minister. She sells dozens of the steamy sagas daily from her makeshift bookstand inside the Kievskaya metro station.

Wearied by recent years of economic hardship, Russian readers are snubbing weightier classics and happily abandoning themselves to a world of breathless beauties and cunning casanovas.

"He grabbed her, his lips caressing her face," reads a passage from "Enchanted Sunset" by Jo Collaway, the story of a handsome stranger who sweeps into an Oregon

town and cures a heart-broken anthropologist.

The popularity of these novels, mostly Russian translations of Western titles, extends far beyond Volchkova's stall.

On a recent bestseller list compiled weekly, six of the capital's top 10 fiction paperbacks were romance novels. "Danielle Steele is becoming our new hero," Gennady Kuzminov, who compiles the lists for the Moscow weekly Knizhnoye Obozreniye, said of the author.

But enterprising Russian writers have tuned in to the widespread popu-

larity of these formulaic, quickly written novels too, and are diving into the realm of unbridled passions themselves.

Afficionados of these amorous adventures are quick to emphasise that the books' appeal is romance, not sex.

"If we were sex-crazed, we would buy those magazines," said romance reader Vera Krylatova, referring to the pornographic publications that line kiosks across the country.

The primly dressed Ms. Krylatova waited for a subway train immersed in "Echoes of a Past Love,"

in which she said the heroes spend the majority of the novel thousands of kilometres apart, instead of in each others' arms — or beds.

"It makes me feel good. That's why I read it," the 55-year-old chemist said.

She's not alone. Six other people stood nearby on the subway platform nearby absorbed by romance novels — including one middle-aged man.

"It's something easy to read," said the bearded man, slightly embarrassed as he quickly stashed the Jove story in his pocket.

Titles lining passengers' laps in the subway reflect the shifts in Russia's literary marketplace.

Under the cold care of Soviet censors, readers were "protected" from such dangerous literature as Western thrillers, pornography and detective novels. Subway passengers clutched Russian classics, the Communist Party daily Pravda or one of the many thick Soviet literary journals.

Glasnost and the collapse of Soviet Union freed authors from political censorship, but they

brought an economic freedom many writers might now prefer to surrender.

The prose sections of Moscow's Dom Knigi, which means house of books, once the capital's main bookstore, are dominated by translations of Western romance and detective novels. Its philosophy department boasts rows of self-help books, and only two works by Karl Marx.

The popularity of the passion-filled pot boilers may have as much to do with the mood of the readers as the market. Too

burned out by everyday concerns arising from inflation and instability to tackle "War and Peace," many are turning to escapist romances.

"Such publications are the tumour of our society," said Timur Pulatov, chairman of the International Association of Writers' Unions, one of the successors to the prestigious Soviet writers' union.

Pulatov's biggest worry is that the Western romance-novel "disease" has infected Russia's tradition.

## Queen of romance decries society of smut

By Lyndsay Griffiths  
Reuters

**LONDON** — Dame Barbara Cartland, the world's most successful romantic novelist, remembers a time when the only thing worse than having sex was talking about it.

"It was rather like going to the lavatory. You never spoke about it. It's all so extraordinary today. People have become very vulgar," Cartland told Reuters.

The dame's preferred world is that of her youth, a sanitised land of elegant dances, ballgowns, lines of suitors in white tie and tails and plenty of good clean fun.

"It is sad, isn't it? People used to fall in love," she said. "Now sex comes into everything. In my day you never heard the word. It's revolting and nasty and very bad for the young."

"I didn't know where babies came from until I'd had five proposals of marriage. I was absolutely astonished," said Ms. Cartland, who like so many prudish talks about sex with relish.

Her books, are sex-free zones. All 621 of them. "For 30 years, I've done a book a fortnight (every two weeks). Without fail, 6,000 words a day," said the 93-year-old doyenne of

pulp romance. "Nobody else has done that."

She dictates to an army of secretaries at her suburban mansion and the formula sells in the hundreds of millions, surpassing even the sales of crime writer Agatha Christie.

"I'm doing very well in Australia and love is selling in France too. Next I'm off to America. When books go to China they take every one and remove the sex. The only books they don't interfere with are mine. Japan's going that way too," she said.

Though 38 per cent of women in Turkey read Cartland, "England says

it's not interested in love," she sighed.

Indeed, British profile writers tend to pour scorn on the generously shaped Dame Barbara, resplendent in pink chiffon with her fluttering false eyelashes. But readers like her tales of true love run smooth.

Her heroines are virgins. Their suitors are rich.

And nobody jumps between the sheets until a ring is slipped onto the damsel's finger.

It is not a story from today's world.

"I never write about the present. I don't touch it because I don't want to

write about sex," she said. "God gives me the most wonderful plots. They're so good and so easy."

They don't, unfortunately, match real life. In Cartland's day, young men courted young women from afar, with jewels, not condoms, in their pockets.

"I had 56 proposals of marriage and people always gave me something. Nowadays girls don't get the chance. They're lucky to get a bunch of flowers," said Ms. Cartland, who has just sold her glittering jewel collection at auction.

The 57 lots, from diamonds to paste, were a magnet for fans and col-

lectors alike. Altogether, they fetched 155,813 pounds (\$250,400) — double the 80,000 pounds (\$128,600) anticipated.

"How wonderful!" she duly gushed.

Some things, at least, remain their sheen amid the squalor.

Take the royal family, a pet subject of Cartland's whose daughter Raine is stepmother to Princess Diana, the estranged wife of Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles.

"Of course there's still romance in the royal family,"

weakening of the House of Windsor.

"They're peering through the windows and tapping telephone calls. If you're not careful we're going to lose our royal family. All this (scrutiny) is exhausting and very, very damaging for the whole of England."

"The Italians cry because they don't have a royal family. The French would love one. And what are we doing — our very best to get rid of them," said the patriotic Dame.

Ms. Cartland said she welcomed reports that Charles and Diana had ruled out divorce for the sake of their children,

blaming some of Diana's problems on her own troubled upbringing.

"They're never quite the same, they don't have the security. She was a very sweet little girl when she married, very innocent," she said. "Let's just hope they sort it all out."

In fact the whole country should sort it all out if people want the sort of happy endings her heroines routinely enjoy. "England says it's not interested in love anymore," said Ms. Cartland. "But it will come back. People fight and die for real love and they'll realise this sex business is the wrong track."



## Techno freaks

By Jean-Claude Elias

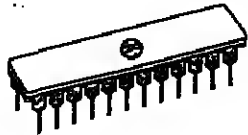
"One day everybody will be using a computer." How many times have we heard or read this brusque statement? The way personal computer (PC) aficionados put it, we should expect computers to come just after bread and water in the list of our essential needs in a decade or two.

This is obviously a gross exaggeration. Although the dramatic technical progress that PCs and software have recently made and the significant reduction in manufacturing cost have put them virtually in every office, school and most homes, there are still millions of people who do not have even the faintest idea of how to operate a PC. Some simply because they cannot afford to learn the technique, some because they do not have access to the systems and others simply because they hate the technology.

Moreover, people are discovering that while the machines can help them work better, having someone else do the job and confront the equipment makes their life easier. In other words, more and more people trust the machines and admit they need them, but prefer to let someone else operate the equipment for them. As shocking as it may sound to some, this would mean that maybe with time, less people will be using PCs themselves.

Another factor that contributes to frightening users is the lack of friendliness in operating PCs. Though computer operating systems (OS) have come a long way since the early eighties and are infinitely easier and more pleasant to use now, they are still far from being as friendly as common mortals wish them to be. I do not intend to upset Mr. Bill Gates (I wouldn't dare) but even the new Windows system can't be as friendly as in the average PC user's

## chip talk



dreams.

However, let's be very optimistic and assume that computers have become as powerful, inexpensive and friendly as they could be, there will always be individuals that would rather keep a certain distance between them and the machines. Some of us simply are not fond of technology and can live a perfectly happy life without it. I have a friend who hates wrist watches that do anything more than just give the time of day. Even the day and date functions are unbearable to him. The mere sight of those trendy watches that have a built-in alarm, a calculator, three different time displays, an altitude indicator and heart pulse monitor makes him sick.

If many still can't (or do not want to) programme a VCR, how can we claim that every single person on Earth will use a PC some day? It is very unlikely. We may all depend on computer technology in the future — we probably depend on it now — but we do not all have to necessarily become computer operators, let alone computer experts.

## Oh what a tangled web we weave

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Self proclaimed experts have been arguing that nearly half of the buildings in Amman have neither taste nor style. Normally, one cannot but agree with this assessment. But which half of buildings are we talking about?

It remains possible to argue that the residential homes of western Amman and other privileged areas in the Kingdom with their rather exaggerated and extravagant features are neither aesthetically appealing nor architecturally enriching. It would also be possible to go on further to claim that these residences are a part of what is commonly referred to as Mickey Mouse architecture — architecture put together by cartoonists.

By contrast, it can also be claimed that the residential homes in the rather less fortunate parts of Amman and other Jordanian villages and cities are somewhat interesting and exciting. One can also add that it was the down to earth designs that made even a fishing village in Bombay very interesting in terms of the aesthetics they had to offer.

It does very little justice to our urban fabric if we were to compare it with that of cities such as Chicago, or any other well developed city because cities are normally a product of certain historical events, trade, migrations, etc. And homes, or residential types, are products of a certain period in the history of a city.

What remains is that humans have, in theory at least and by virtue of their own nature, the ability to describe, assess, and maybe criticise their environment. Yes, one could say that a window is square and a door is rectangular. But one also could say that an upside down arch is nonsense or whether a terrace was too small or a window too small. One does not need an education in architecture to be able to tell whether a table is too low or whether a door is too high.

Nowadays, one could certainly say more, simply because there is more folly to talk about. And this folly is not simply in architecture. One could say, for example, that pitched roofs are being taken to extremes, that huge glass windows are totally uncalled for in our hot climate, that overall form is given shape either for reasons driven by financial gains or by clumsy attempts at putting square blocks together. Garages are mere additives reminiscent of suitcases and chimneys have developed rather silly looking things at their ends.

We are certainly not building our houses so that we impress our foreign friends who they come to visit. Or are we? And if so, who are we kidding? When some Swedish friends of mine came over last summer, they certainly did not want to visit Abdou, but the refugee camps around Amman. And it made no sense to try to convince them that such environments did not exist. Eventually, they were taken to both.

Honest professionals owe it to themselves and to the people of eastern, southern and northern Amman, nine-tenths of Zarqa, Salt, Ajloun, Jerash, Mafrqa and the rest of the Jordanian landscape to defend such habitats against claims that these areas lack style and character.

Each and every locality and neighbourhood, anywhere in the world, has a distinct style and its own character. And simply because the arrogance within us stirs us too often to make ill informed judgements, we should never attempt to play God. People who state that low income people only think that a house is just a shelter are gravely mistaken.

Low-income settlements around the world are some of the most colourful and free form urban products ever produced by man. It is there after all that humans do what they do with their homes because they need to and not to turn their houses into markers of social status. Others, on the other hand, only use Italian marble because it has become a marker of social status. Local materials remain always at the heart of everything. The Yemenites certainly never did import any Italian marble or any structural glazing or panning system.

Those who claim that poor people cannot afford to decorate and beautify their houses most have their own interpretations of what beauty is. And certainly such individuals must have never been in the low-income settlements of either India, Thailand, Ghana, Turkey or Brazil.

Imposed value systems are always damaging. Making demands that the houses of those among us who are less fortunate should display more rhythm, taste and style is totally uncalled for. For certainly the houses of the more well off areas can do with a great deal of taste, rhythm and an appreciation of human scale and local materials.

The aesthetics of any dwelling remain related to the values of the culture in which it is placed and consequently tell so much about a society.

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday,  
Sept. 7, 1995

1:00 1 ris - The Happy Professor  
1:15 Fireman Sam  
1:50 My Secret Identity  
2:15 N.B.A.  
3:30 Take Your Pick  
4:00 Dead Men's Tales  
4:30 I witness Video  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Rahan — "Pour Sauver Alona"  
5:30 Varieties And Game Show  
Le Monde Est A Vous  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Court Metrage  
Stella Plage  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 National Geographic  
8:30 The Album Show  
9:15 Murder She Wrote  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Movie — In The Name Of Duty  
Starring: James Brolin  
12:00 Shogun  
12:40 Perfect Strangers

Friday,  
Sept. 8, 1995

1:00 Read A Lee Deed A Lee  
1:15 Beethoven  
1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That  
2:00 Key To Freedom: Women & Literacy  
2:30 Movie — The Entertainers  
Starring: Bob Newhart & Linda Gray  
4:00 Crystal Maze  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Rahan — "Les Enfants Du Fleuve"  
5:30 Telefilm — Pas Si Grand Que Ca  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine  
E-M6  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 African Skies  
8:00 Heartbeat  
8:30 Documentary — Nomads Of The Wind  
9:10 Danger Field  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Movie — Calamity Jane  
Starring: Jane Alexander & Fredrick For-  
rest  
12:00 Out On A Limb  
12:30 The Powers That Be

Saturday,  
Sept. 9, 1995

2:00 Back To The Future  
2:30 Harry And The Hendersons  
3:00 Road To Avonlea  
3:45 Only In Hollywood  
4:00 U.S. Tennis Open  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Rahan — "Les Entrailles Du Gorak"  
5:30 Documentary  
Les Bicentenaire Du Louvre  
Drama Series  
Operation Open 1 Et 2  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine — Faut Pas Reve  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 First Flights  
8:00 Major Dad  
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
9:10 Women Of The World  
9:35 Boogies Diner  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Movie — A Place For Annie  
Starring: Sissy Spacek & Marry-Louise Parker  
11:50 Noble House

Sunday,  
Sept. 10, 1995

2:00 The Flintstones  
2:30 Joshua Jones  
2:45 The Mighty Jungle  
3:00 Pugwall's Summer  
3:30 Time Riders  
4:00 Families  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Rahan

5:30

Telefilm  
Le J.A.P.  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine  
Ushuaia: Le Magazine De L'Extreme  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Cinema, Cinema  
8:00 Nurses  
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
9:15 Strathblair  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Counter Strike  
11:10 Return To Eden  
12:30 Keeping Up Appearances

Monday,  
Sept. 11, 1995

2:00 The Animals Of Farthing Wood  
2:30 Hey Dad!  
3:00 Survival  
4:00 Families  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Rahan  
5:30 Telefilm  
L'Arbre De La Discorde  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 French Varieties  
7:35 News Headlines  
7:35 Camp Wilder  
8:00 McHale's Navy  
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
9:10 Women Of The World  
9:35 Carol And Company  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries  
Kissing The Gunner's Daughter  
11:30 Movie — Original Sin  
Starring: Robert Desiderio & Charlton Heston

Tuesday,  
Sept. 12, 1995

2:00 Captain Planet  
2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.  
3:00 Road To Avonlea  
4:00 Families  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Rahan  
5:30 Magazine  
Montagne  
Varieties  
Tarata  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine  
Faut Pas Reve  
7:35 You Bet Your Life  
8:00 Piglet Files  
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
9:15 Women Of The World  
9:30 Pacific Station  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Trade Winds  
11:30 New York Undercover  
12:00 Grace Under Fire  
12:30 Varieties

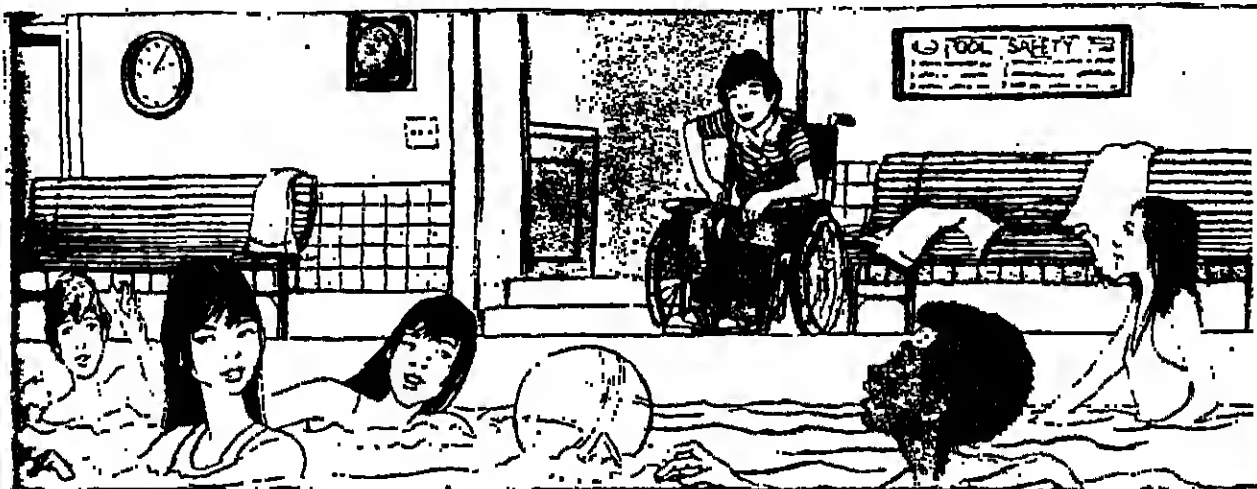
Wednesday,  
Sept. 13, 1995

2:00 Inspector Gadget  
2:30 Super Champs  
3:00 Tomorrow's World  
3:30 Amazing Stories  
4:00 Families  
5:00 Children's Programme  
Rahan  
5:30 Detective Telefilm  
Les Aventures De Nestor Durma  
7:00 Le Journal  
7:15 Magazine  
Ushuaia, Le Magazine De L'Extreme  
7:30 News Headlines  
7:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe  
8:00 Anything For A Laugh  
8:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
9:15 Heart Of Healing  
10:00 News In English  
10:25 Prism  
10:40 Blue Skies  
11:45 Silk Road  
12:30 Varieties

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### TEST YOUR POWER OF OBSERVATION



Carefully look at the picture for 3 minutes, put the newspaper aside and then state whether these statements are TRUE or FALSE.

SCORE: Excellent 9-10; Good 7-8; Good 6-8; Below 5: Lacking concentration.

1. The boy sitting in the trolley is holding a stick.
2. There are six people in the picture.
3. Time shown is "ten minutes past one."

★★★★★

### TIME FOR FUN

★ "A smart lady is standing in your husband's way"  
WIFE: "Poor lady! My husband is a train driver!"

★★★★★

★ HUSBAND: "If I were Adam, I wouldn't quit Paradise."

WIFE: Why?

HUSBAND: "Because I dislike apples."

★★★★★

★ FRIEND: "Oh, has the quarrel with your wife been settled?"

SABER: "I've compelled her to kneel."

FRIEND: "What did you do?"

SABER: "She knelt down and said:

"Come out from under the bed, you coward?"



### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. In nuclear strategy, what is "coupling?"
2. What is the "ordinateur" better known as?
3. Which city is called the Athens of the North?
4. What are dreadlocks?
5. The Long March occurred in China in the 1930s. What in China is the Second Long March?
5. Where are the Drygalsky Mountains?

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Doa't ask me the impossible. La tass'alni al-mustaheel.
- Don't say a word! La tantiq bekalima.
- Doa't be hard on me. La taq alayya.
- Take no notice of him. La to'irhu lhitimaman.
- Don't worry about your mother's health. La tashghil balak besih'hati ommeek.
- I don't need advice, thank you. La hajata lee clan'nos'h, Ashkorok.
- Don't reveal others' secrets. La tak'shif asrar al-akhareen.
- It's a shame, isn't it? Ennahu ayb, alaysa kathalik?

★★★★★

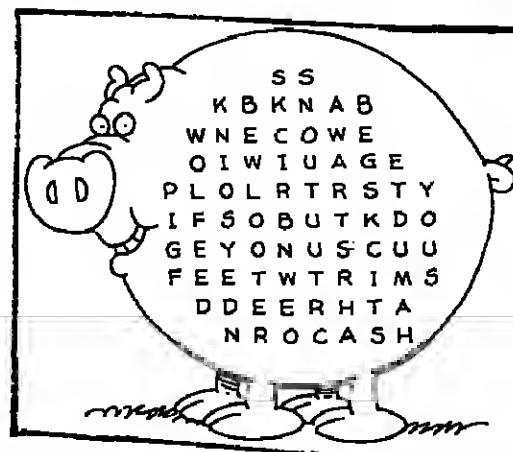
### PUZZLES

#### PIG PUZZLE WORD FIND

By going up, down, backward, forward, or diagonally, can you find the words that have to do with pigs and pig stories?

Put a loop around each one.

PIG	CORN	WOLF	THREE	BANK
SOW	FEED	BRICKS	GRUNT	MUD
WEB	WILBUR	HAM	FEET	STRAW
STY	STICKS	INK	SNOUT	





# Dennis Quaid battles to make peace with himself

By Ric Levya

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dennis Quaid is a big boy now.

Faced with unhappy task of talking about himself, he is obliging, even forthcoming, although his body language betrays deeply mixed feelings.

He listens attentively and answers intelligently, but eying the tape recorder with distrust, he fidgets shamelessly, squirming in his seat trying to get comfortable.

Too often, he rubs his eyes, laughs nervously or coughs, nugs at his hair in frustration or manhandles his shirt collar. He doesn't seem to notice. Every now and then, he suddenly stops speaking and leans forward, elbows on knees, squeezing his cheeks between both hands and moaning slightly like he's in pain.

Revealing himself to a total stranger who will put his every thought into print isn't Quaid's idea of a good time. But he is a movie star. It comes with the job. And

he's always been a pro, so naturally he delivers.

Just don't expect anything less than the truth.

"I don't read anything that's written about me," he says. "I won't read this either."

Oooh, that felt good. He sits still for a few self-satisfied seconds, maintaining eye contact now and grinning his grin, that winning Quaid half-smirk that melts tender hearts in movie houses.

This time, though, it means he won't go down without a fight.

"There's no way I could put myself into a nutshell, because I don't see myself from the outside," Quaid says matter-of-factly, without the slightest trace of defensiveness. "That's what these stories are, being seen from the outside from another person's point of view."

"That's fine and everything, but that's also the reason I don't read them, because I'm living in here," he says, patting his chest.

"I read one way, way, way back and I just kind of felt

like, gosh, I sounded so self-important, you know."

The boy is a man.

Forget about trying to understand Quaid's labyrinthine psyche. The versatile actor has stymied any attempt to label him during a 20-year career that includes more than 35 films, most recently *Something to Talk About* with Julia Roberts.

They haven't always been hits.

"A lot of my movies have taken a pounding," he says with a shrug. "My reward is when I'm doing them. That's the only kind of satisfaction you can get. It's the only thing that's real."

Dennis, husband of actress Meg Ryan and younger brother of actor Randy Quaid, established himself in the late 1970s with the cycling film, *Breaking Away*. He was strong in *The Right Stuff* (1983) and *The Big Easy* (1986).Then came his perhaps too-realistic portrayal of self-destructive Jerry Lee Lewis in *Great Balls of Fire*, which came at the height of

his own self-destructive romp through the '80s.

"During *Great Balls of Fire*, I was pretty much overboard in my life," he admits.

And while he's tired of rehashing his past problems with drugs and alcohol, he's not trying to sweep anything under the rug.

"That's the old story. That was years ago. I've been sober for over five years," he says. "It's sort of a good thing to talk about though, in a way, so anybody else out there who has suffered knows that you can walk away from it."

Nowadays, Quaid, 41, gets high being a doting daddy to Jack, his son with Ryan. He even skips precious trips to the links with uncle Randy for the sake of fatherhood.

"I'd rather spend time with him," he says. "Golf will always be there, but he'll never be 3 again."

The onetime Hollywood hell-raiser is now an unapologetic family man.

"The strongest glue of society is the family," he says. "It's where we learn

everything. It's where we first learn how to eat with a fork, how to not go to the bathroom in our pants. How to say 'please.'"

"People who don't learn all those basic social skills, well, later in life, we all pay for it as a society."

After a two-year hiatus following *Postcards From The Edge* in 1990, Quaid returned to full-time movie work, making little-seen films such as *Wilderness*, *Undercover Blues* and *Flesh and Bone*.

Unfortunately for him, the trend continued through Wyatt Earp, Kevin Costner's Lackluster western epic. It was a shame because Quaid's admirable turn as ad hoc Holiday, for which the 180-pound (82-kilogramme) actor lost 45 pounds (20 kilograms), went largely unnoticed.

"I'm really proud of that one," Quaid says, his voice trailing off sheepishly.

He likes his prospects for a long happy life with Ryan, joking about how they'll endure together.

The next Hume Cronyn

and Jessica Tandy?" he says with a laugh. "We'll have to wait and see about that. We've done three movies so far. I think we should hack off a little and wait a while before we do another one, although I'd love to work with her again."

(They met on the set of *Inner Space*, and later made *D.O.A.* and *Flesh and Bone* together).A private pilot who learned to fly while making *The Right Stuff*, Quaid joins John Travolta in a passion for jet travel.

"He and I are the only jet-rated actors," says Quaid, the new owner of a Citation jet plane. "It's a big thrill. I made it here from L.A. in five and a half hours. Going back will be against the wind though. That won't be so thrilling."

Pressed one last time to sum himself up, he's direct.

"I can't change what I like," he says. "I like what I like and I know what I know."

He paused a second before concluding: "I am happy."



Dennis Quaid

## A wild reception for Jon Secada in Grease revival

By Michael Kuchwara

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — "One hot star" trumpets the advertising copy for the Broadway revival of *Grease*. Judging from the audience reaction to Jon Secada's official opening night at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, it could be right.

Screams and Squeals greeted the pop star from his first entrance and were repeated along with whistles and a loud chorus of "Yes," every time he opened his mouth to sing.

At the end of the show, the audience — which included long time Secada supporter Gloria Estefan and her producer husband Emilio — scrambled to its feet for a cheering standing ovation. As photographers stormed the aisles to take pictures of the grinning Secada, groupies threw white carnations and streamers at the stage.

Since it opened 15 months ago, the revival of *Grease* has been a triumph of musical theatre marketing by producers Barry and Fran Weissler. The husband-and-wife producing team have tailored their stars to the show — and to an audience that probably has never seen a Broadway musical before.Rosie O'Donnell, Brooke Shields, Joely Fisher. Not exactly a theatre hall of Fame Trio, but three distinct performers who put their mark on *Rizzo*, the show's had girl with a heart of gold. They dominated the musical — and score plenty of tickets during their engagements.

Now Secada reclaims the show for Danny Zuko, the 1950s duck-tailed high-school greaser who wins the heart of sweet and prim Sandy Dumbrowski. It's not exactly typecasting. While Danny is brash, Secada off-stage is almost bashful, unassuming and

unfilingly polite.

"He's sooooo nice," coos Fran Weissler. "And he works so hard. He comes in early. He leaves late. I can't tell you what is going to happen months from now. All I can tell you is that he is a joy — and you know, that doesn't happen too often in this business."

Secada seems embarrassed by the fuss. A week or so before his opening, the performer sits in a Manhattan hotel suite, dutifully doing a series of interviews for the show.

Secada is dressed in black jeans, a light Rydell High T-shirt and black leather jacket sporting the name of the musical. His hair is in a fashionable short cut, nothing like the carefully slicked wig he wears in the show.

"I was anxious — it was a learning experience from day one," Secada says. The singer played several weeks out-of-town, appearing with the road company of

the show in preparation for joining the Broadway cast.

"I treated each performance as a lesson," he says. "Of course, you always screw up. But it's good for me. I'm very critical of myself. And what a way to start. This is Broadway."

Secada comes to Broadway with virtually no theatre experience, but plenty of stage savvy. He knows how to work an audience. On opening night, he swagged, sang falsetto and rolled his eyes, making sure theatregoers got every one of the musical's mildly raunchy but good-natured jokes. The audience loved every minute of it.

"Jon has an incredible amount of sex appeal — it's just there," says Jeff Calhoun, the director of *Grease*. "I've never worked with anyone who has the musical instincts he has. They are spectacular."Take his singing of *Alone At The Drive-In Movie*. His performance ofit is as good as any musical performance I have seen in the theatre. And when would you say that when you are talking about *Grease*?" Calhoun says with a laugh.

Yet Secada realises and appreciates that concerns and theatre are worlds apart.

"Different timing, different atmosphere," he explains. "That's what I've been trying to learn every single night. Learn the essence of timing, the acting and the dancing. And how to do it eight times a week."

So why take on Broadway? Coming off a world tour, the Cuban-born Secada says he was ready for a new challenge and new audiences beyond his traditional Latin and pop fans. It's an extension of an effort started several years ago by his friend, model Ingrid Casares, who put him in Armani suits and

other designer duds to mainstream his appeal.

Secada was noticed first on stage in a bid way five years ago, when Gloria Estefan offered him a job touring with her show. He had worked for her as a songwriter and backup singer. His first album sold 10 million copies worldwide, producing the hit singles *Just Another Day* and *Angel*; a second, *Heart, Soul And A Voice*, more tinged with rhythm and blues, was released last year.

Secada immigrated with his family to South Florida in 1971 at the age of nine. His parents ran a restaurant in Hialeah, Florida, where he grew up. Secada was teaching music at Miami-Dade Community College when he was hired by Estefan's husband, Emilio. He's been in the music business ever since.

"You don't get bored if you don't stop working," Secada says.

"You've got to keep working at your craft. That's what I do when I sing my songs on stage."

The first thing you have to remember is to love what you do. That is something Gloria Estefan told me when I first got into the business. Every song you write and every song you sing — you really must like them — because they are going to be with you for the rest of your life."

While Secada is in *Grease* — he is scheduled to stay with the show through December — his new Spanish-language recording, *Amor*, will be released.

"It is a very nostalgic-sounding record with a full orchestra," he says. "Very passionate, romantic with beautiful songs. It's very Nat King Cole-ish and a real change of pace for me."

Secada wrote about half the songs on the new

recording, the others were by other Latin writers who are very well respected in the industry."

With his nights booked, Secada says he will work during the day on a new English-language recording, although his main responsibility will be to the musical.

For all his considerable star power, Secada doesn't overwhelm this production of *Grease*. He knows he is part of a team, an ensemble of actors.

"You have to get used to working with people," he says. "You have to make yourself fit in, like a glove."

Only at the end of the show, after the curtain calls and the cheering, does Secada step forward to give the audience a little extra something. He croons an uptempo version of the old Elvis Presley anthem *Love Me Tender*. And they go wild.

## Indonesian cinema at a nadir

By Linawati Sidarto  
Agence France Presse

JAKARTA — Indonesia's failure to clinch any awards at an international film festival it recently hosted mirrors the country's moribund film industry, which is facing stiff competition from American, Indian and Hong Kong imports.

A Taiwanese movie won the top honour at the Asian Pacific Film Festival held here last week, while the host was left to meditate on the reason it

failed to get any of the 12 prizes up for grabs.

The failure was further exacerbated by the fact that Indonesia has not been able to hold its annual Indonesian Film Festival in the last two years, citing both the low quantity and quality of its products.

"The Indonesian people have progressed, while its film industry has been at a standstill for a long time," the chairman of the Jakarta Art Council, Salim Said, told AFP.

In 1993, only two dozen

movies were produced, compared to 120 in 1990, and 1994 did not see much improvement.

Very few of the recent Indonesian films went beyond cheap eroticism, slapstick humour and bloody violence. Titles such as *Night Lust* and *Tainted Bed* were immensely popular in rural areas, where the majority of Indonesians live.

Mr. Said pegs the early 1990s as the time when the Indonesian movie industry began its downhill slide. That's when the American

Film Exporters Association started to aggressively market its products with the backing of Washington, which threatened trade retaliation unless a certain number of American movies entered Indonesia.

The market for foreign films and television is blossoming. After decades of a sole state-owned national television station, Indonesia saw its first private television station broadcast in 1990. Now, five private stations are vying for viewers.

Indonesians are also reaching out to foreign programming through increasingly ubiquitous satellite dishes.

"Don't hope to revive the industry through traditional methods, which are through the market. We can't compete with imports," said Said, adding that the government had given cinema very little attention.

To rejuvenate the industry, the government should finance quality movie productions and enter them in international

festivals, where they could be picked up by cinemas overseas and thus make money, according to Said.

Said cited young director Garin Nugroho's film *Letter To An Angel*, which this year won awards at festivals in Berlin and Taormina, Italy.

Nugroho has also complained about the poor state of the Indonesian film industry, saying the approach toward film has been "mistaken and narrow," and "proactive politics" was needed to tackle the crisis.

But competition from foreign sources isn't the only reason for the slide.

"Our human resources haven't developed, so we're unable to make quality movies," said Said, who was also six-time juror at the Indonesian Film Festival.

He pointed out that Indonesia never had any professional film schools and movie directors generally have to work their way up through apprenticeships.

Distribution disputes are also cited as hurting

the domestic film industry.

In 1991, cinema owners halted the screening of noted producer Eros Jaro's highly acclaimed *My Sky, My Home* after only one day, citing extremely small audiences.

Industry observers, however, said the film was pulled because of disagreements between the producer and noted businessman Sudwikatmono, President Suharto's cousin who controls Indonesian movie distribution.

## Film-maker mapped path to top like an army general

By Tim Farrand  
Reuters

LONDON — The rise to fame of controversial young American film-maker Quentin Tarantino is a tale of a movie buff who has swapped his seat in the dark for the lights of the big screen with alarming speed.

Only one director has generated so much fuss on such a limited output and that was Orson Welles. Still in his early 30s, Tarantino has only directed *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, for which he won an Oscar this year for best screenplay.

He has also written

True Romance and *Natural Born Killers*, which portray America's underclass of gangsters and crooks with the same unnerving mix of violence and comedy.But in a biography entitled *Quentin Tarantino: Shooting From The Hip*, author Wensley Clarkson says no one should be surprised by the meteoric climb. He sees Tarantino as a man on a mission who put enormous time and effort into movies.

"Hollywood tended to treat him as though he was some kid who had come from nowhere and had fallen on his feet. In fact, Quentin had planned it all with the meticulous eye of

an army general mapping out his campaign," Clarkson writes.

Although the violence of his movies largely accounts for Tarantino's status as a youth icon, Clarkson argues that the violence is more subtle than many other movie-makers'.

"If you ask me how I feel about violence in real life, well, I have a lot of feelings about it," Tarantino himself said at a recent news conference. "It's one of the worst aspects of America. In movies, violence is cool. I like it."

Tarantino is now mobbed by teenage girls but he has the sort of ordinary

face that before 1992 — when *Dogs* put him on every magazine cover — would have gone unnoticed in a crowd.

He was literally born into the movies.

His mother, who cooperated with Clarkson on the book, named him after a rugged film co-writer called Quint Asper, played by Burt Reynolds, who featured in a western called *Guns-moke*.Tarantino grew up on a diet of hamburgers and hot dogs, just as all the male characters in *Pulp Fiction* eat junk food. He became obsessed with tough-guy G.I. Joe dolls

and would stage vicious hand-to-hand combat scenes all over the house.

His mother took him to see daring movies from an early age. He saw *Carnal Knowledge* when he was about seven and *Deliverance*, whose homosexual rape scene he recreated in *Pulp Fiction*.

By the age of eight he had developed a liking for grisly horror flicks. He also became engrossed in television shows, sitting close to the small screen for hours on end.

As a teenager Tarantino often played truant, skipping school to watch movies at \$2 afternoon matinees.

After two years at

acting school in California he took a job as a head hunter and could afford to buy a video player, enabling him to devour even more movies.

Realising the only way to learn how to make films was by watching them, Tarantino went to work as a clerk at a specialist video store.

Tarantino was almost incapable of doing ordinary paperwork. "But he could out-talk anyone when it came to describing the camera angles in all Sergio Leone's films," Clarkson writes.

A turning point came when he spent a harrowing eight days in jail in Los

Angeles for unpaid parking fines.

Now he could write with some authority about something he had experienced for himself, rather than seen on TV or at a movie," Clarkson says.

Tarantino is hailed by his fans as a modern genius. But his detractors accuse him of ripping off other film-makers — even though Tarantino himself considers borrowing ideas to be the ultimate compliment to a director.

Producer Don Murphy calls him a video geek "who thought he could act, watched far too many videos, took the scenes and plots that other people came up with, worked

them into scripts, and claimed them as his own."

Clarkson also quotes Roger Avari, a friend who worked with Tarantino in the same video store but clashed with him over the credit for writing parts of *Pulp Fiction*.

"Quentin knows everything about pop culture. But his greatest strength is his greatest weakness. He is only interested in pop culture."

"The one problem people have with Quentin's work is that it speaks of other movies, instead of life. The big trick is to live a life and then make movies about that life," Avari said.



# New breast implants launched in Britain

By Lyndsay Griffiths

Rueter

LONDON — A revolutionary breast implant filled with vegetable oil was launched in Britain Monday, billed as a safe and natural alternative to the leaky silicone sacs that stirred health fears around the world.

The new implant is due for release in Italy and Germany later this year and should hit the multimillion-dollar U.S. market by 2000, according to its Swiss manufacturer.

"There are three reasons why this implant is a first — it's natural, safe and secure. If it ever leaks into the body it is harmless," Terry Knapp, president of Lipomatrix Inc. told Reuters. "Our goal is to offer women an opportunity to achieve a satisfactory image in the safest possible way."

Mr. Knapp said at the launch the sacs had undergone painstaking research to meet European Union standards and were the first new implant to win U.S. permission to undergo trials.

"The past four years have been a journey of challenge and discovery, of confrontation and concern, of encouraging setback and exhilarating progress," Mr. Knapp said. "Like any product, Trilucent will evolve as human knowledge accumu-

lates but we are confident that we have provided a better way forward."

A line of independent experts — doctors, plastic surgeons, psychologists and cancer charities — gave their backing to the new implant, which was invented by two women radiologists in St. Louis and launched at London's Royal Society of Medicine.

But the history of implants, used primarily to enlarge breasts for cosmetic reasons, has been dogged by controversy and it could be years before the new version wins U.S. approval.

## Genetic engineering safe, British government says

LONDON (R) — Genetic engineering, used to create vaccines, tastier tomatoes and pest-resistant crops, is safe, the British government said last week.

The Health and Safety Commission issued a report saying gene technology was "down to earth" and had made "astonishingly rapid yet safe progress."

"When the techniques of genetic engineering were first developed some 20 years ago the scientists themselves were worried about the risks and voluntar-

ily banned certain research," said Frank Davies, chairman of the commission.

"However, the understandable fears about the risks of 'playing God' have proved largely groundless and we have been able to refine the controls without jeopardis-

ing safety," Mr. Davies added in a statement.

Some environmental groups and other critics of genetic engineering say it could be dangerous if altered plants, insects or animals escaped into the environ-

ment. Many groups have also demanded that genetically altered food be clearly marked.

# Riding therapy builds muscle and independence in disabled

By Aparna Mukherjee

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — For one hour each week, the dull, empty gaze that distances 16-year-old Chad Solomon from the world takes on fire and life.

There on the horse, you wouldn't know it. Chad is among hundreds of disabled people who have ridden at Pegasus since its founding in 1982 and among many thousands seeking help every year through riding therapy, also known as hippotherapy.

Success stories are legion, dating back to Liz Hartel of Denmark, who won a silver medal at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki after overcoming paralysis from polio.

Carol Tatum founded Pegasus with her husband, Richard, after closing a mainstream riding school.

"I was near burnout and disenchanted with riders who only cared about their accomplishments," she said. With Pegasus, she feels a deep satisfaction.

"I really appreciate the connection the riders I teach now have with the horses. It's very spiritual," Tatum said. "They need the horses, physically and mentally, as much as the horses need them."

Tatum forces the riders to push themselves, yelling at youngsters to gain control of wandering horses and cheering when they do.

A \$27-per-session fee covers the cost of housing, feeding and training Pegasus' 12 horses and maintaining the stables, indoor arena and offices. The buildings are on property owned by the City's Park Commission, which leases the land to Pegasus for \$1 a year.

# Researchers isolate new mutation that causes Alzheimer's

By Paul Recer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A mutation found only among some German-Russian immigrants is identified as a third gene that causes inherited Alzheimer's disease. Scientists say the discovery may help speed development of drugs to combat the brain-destroying disorder.

Researchers isolated the gene by probing chromosomes of a group known as Volga Germans, who have a very high incidence rate of Alzheimer's before age 65. The mutated gene, found on chromosome 1, was linked directly to causing the fatal disease.

Two reports on the discovery are being published in Science, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Rudolph Tanzi of Massachusetts General Hospital, a principal collaborator in the research, said the new Alzheimer's gene makes a protein that is closely related to a protein made by an Alzheimer's gene his team found earlier on chromosome 14.

The similarity, Mr. Tanzi said, puts researchers on a fast track for understanding what causes formation in the brain of amyloid-beta, a glue-like substance toxic to brain cells and a primary feature of Alzheimer's.

He said once the function of the two similar proteins is found, researchers can develop a drug to block the disease.

"This is an incredibly important discovery," said Marcelle Morrison-Bogorad, a professor of Neurology at the University of Texas' Southwestern Medical School.

"This means that genetics has pretty much solved the mystery of early-onset AD (Alzheimer's disease), and it clears a path for scientific research that wasn't there before."

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

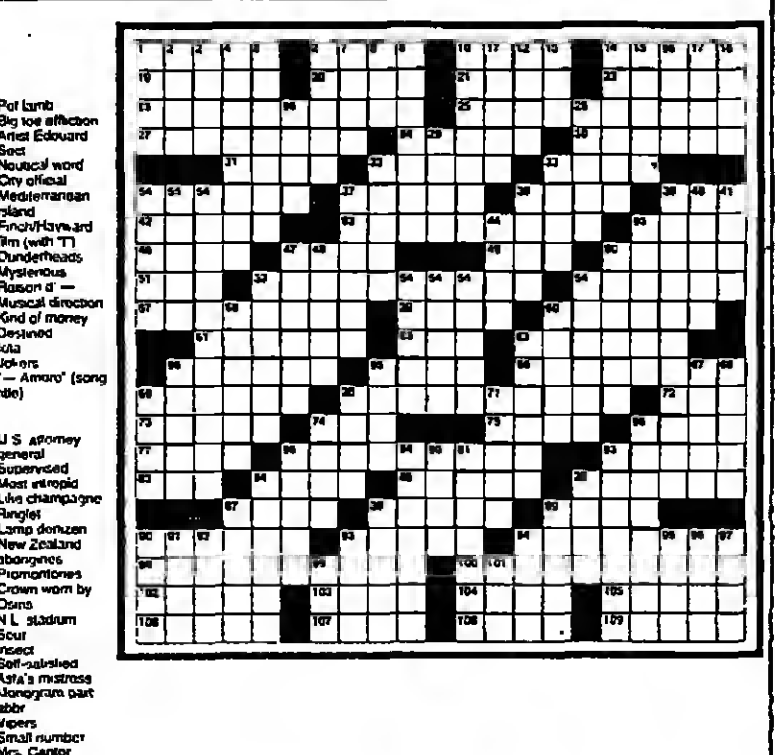
BOOBY TRAP

By Joel Davajan

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Diagramless, 19 x 19

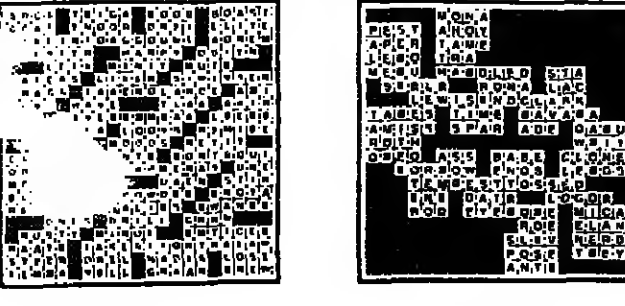
By Adam Christopher

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Red-headed girl cheers on her new little league idol as he scores the winning run.
2. Politician definition: A person who stands for what he hopes others can fall for.
3. Heist of Chinese imports was foiled at dockside when makeshift hoist buckled and broke up.
4. Gallant shipowner often regales pals with tales of gales.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. PEEPING POORUGY PELPOT PROKEY, PEEGWREY PWGATHAS POOPASGWAQY, PRICE PROLPINHAS PUPPUBA PILOT.
2. KYSSO KNAPVRC STENCHO BVGYA RNB BEY DVTVDY. KY BEURGA EX KUFAYRE YA V "B.F.V.R."
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4. NBA SNIX BLOOLPREX BLIONME DANCERS FLEE GR UNIX BLERI NO ANBLNPKLUR FMXR.

## Study casts doubt on malaria vaccine

LONDON (AP) — A much-touted malaria vaccine may not be as effective as previously assumed, a new study suggests.

Investigators found that the vaccine, called SPF66, did not prevent malaria among the majority of the 630 Gambian babies, aged 6-11 months, who took part in the study. Half the participants got three doses of SPF66, and the rest got three doses of polio vaccine. The researchers found the malaria vaccine protected only three per cent of the children.

But researchers say they have not lost hope in the vaccine, which was developed by M. Patarroyo, a scientist in Colombia. A longer and larger trial may yield more hopeful findings.

The results will be published in the Lancet, a British medical journal. Dr. Brian Greenwood, a scientist at Britain's medical research council

laboratories in Banjul, Gambia, who led the research team, said that many factors could be responsible for the differences between the findings of this and earlier trials, including geographical variations, the duration of malaria season, and the participants' ages.

"We are continuing our observations on the children in the Gambian trial to see if they benefit in the longer term," he added.

The new trial may have suggested the vaccine is ineffective because the babies were traced for only about 14 weeks. Previous findings suggest it may take longer for the vaccine to take effect.

## ANSWERS

TEST YOUR POWER OF OBSERVATION

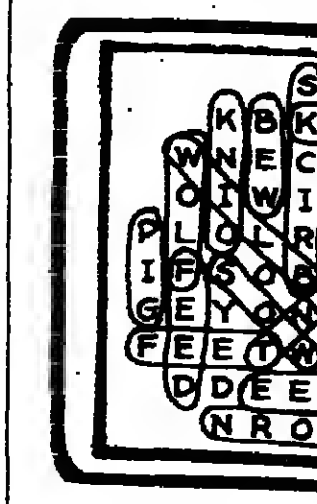
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10. TRUE

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The linking of Western Europe's security with U.S. nuclear weapons
2. The computer
3. Edinburgh
4. The style of long braided hair
5. Deng Xiaoping's effort to make China a more prosperous nation
6. Antarctica

PUZZLES

PIG PUZZLE WORD FIND





## Greenpeace uses airwaves to make waves in Mururoa

By Mike Corder

Associated Press

Amsterdam, Netherlands - The environmental superpower Greenpeace is using video clips and sound bites to wage war against French plans to test a nuclear bomb in the South Pacific.

Megaton media exposure has become the key weapon in the arsenal of the Amsterdam-based group that in recent months has taken on France, China and Royal Dutch Shell.

In televised coverage last week, a French naval helicopter was filmed as it blocked a Greenpeace chopper's attempts to get into the 20-kilometre exclusion zone France has thrown around its Mururoa Atoll test site.

Like every navy, Greenpeace has a flagship, the M.V. Greenpeace, which arrived off the Atoll this week to spar for the cameras with a pair of French navy frigates.

French navy commandos on Friday stormed the ship, as well as its sister ship Rainbow Warrior II, and set off with them to a French military base hundreds of miles away.

Greenpeace's publicity seeking tactics secured it victory over Royal Dutch Shell, the oil multinational forced to abandon plans to dump its spent oil platform at sea.

But critics argue that Greenpeace forced Shell out of one bad decision and into another by insisting on having the platform dismantled on land where workers would be endangered by the poisons left on board.

Television producers too have attacked Greenpeace's manipulation of the media during the Brent Spar campaign. At an Edinburgh televi-

sion forum, David Lloyd, senior commissioning editor for news at Britain's Channel 4, said that Greenpeace video releases provided to the media had spun the story too far in the environmentalists' favour.

The pictures provided to US showed plucky helicopters riding into a fusillade of water cannons. Try and write the analytical science into

at headquarters on Amsterdam's historic Kaiser's Canal, the organisation's executive director, Thilo Bode, said: "Mururoa is fantastic because that is a real conflict. You see the sailing boats and the French war ships."

The group gave the world a taste of its skills earlier this month when Greenpeace anti-nuclear pro-

**Greenpeace has photographers and cameramen aboard all its ships, and the modern satellite technology to beam the images back to the group's media centre in London, where they are fed to news organisations.**

that." Richard Sambrook, the news editor for news and current affairs of BBC television, agreed that Greenpeace's expensive media operation had won the day.

"This particular David is not armed with a slingshot so much as an AK-47," he said. The M.V. Greenpeace and Rainbow Warrior II are loaded to the gunwales with sophisticated communications equipment, ensuring that the world sees Greenpeace's efforts to stop France resuming nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Greenpeace has photographers and cameramen aboard all its ships, and the modern satellite technology to beam the images back to the group's media centre in London, where they are fed to news organisations.

In an interview at Greenpeace's international headquarters in Amsterdam, Bode said: "We must have campaigns that reach the heart and imagination of the public," he said.

testers were arrested in Beijing's Tiananmen

Square, the most politically sensitive spot in China.

Chinese police hadn't even finished interrogating the Greenpeace activists before T.V. viewers around the world saw video footage of their arrests.

Today, Greenpeace is a far cry from the folksy knot of activists who started with a 1971 voyage in the North Pacific to protest U.S. nuclear testing.

Now there are national offices in 30 countries, and a total budget this year of \$140.1 million for high-profile campaigns.

Mr. Bode envisions more splashy crusades in the future.

"We must have campaigns that reach the heart and imagination of the public," he said.



A DECADES LONG CONFLICT: Rwandan refugees in Zair

## Seeds of ethnic hatred go back years in Rwanda

By Elif Kaban

Reuters

Kigali - Rwanda, homeland of hundreds of thousands of refugees who are resisting a united nations repatriation plan, straddles what must be Africa's most gory ethnic faultline.

The seeds of hatred between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes took root during colonial rule.

Independence from Belgium in 1962 released suppressed tribal rivalries which erupted into waves of violence that finally exploded into genocide last year.

The Hutu - darker-skinned, stocky farmers - lived in the region first. They were conquered about 400 years ago by the tall, cattle-keeping Tutsi who came from the north and set up feudal kingdoms in both Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi.

The Tutsi, numbering 15

per cent of the population, ruled the Hutus as serfs before German colonialists arrived in 1899.

German explorer Count von Goetzen described the Tutsi as impressive "with their gigantic stature, the sublimity of their speech, the tasteful and unobtrusive way of their dress, their noble traits and their quiet, penetrating, often even witty and irritable natures."

Colonial rulers reinforced the existing social system after the kingdom was taken over by Germany and later turned over to Belgium as a protectorate after World War I.

The Tutsi, with lighter skin and aquiline features, were favoured by the Belgians in education and as agents governing the majority Hutu population.

In 1959, the Hutu rebelled. The Tutsi monarchy was overthrown and hundreds of thousands of Tutsi fled into

exile. More tribal skirmishes erupted in 1963 and again in 1972.

More than 250,000 Tutsi fled to neighbouring Burundi, where the Tutsi retained control, and 300,000 to Uganda.

In July 1973, Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu and then defence minister, toppled Rwanda's long-serving Hutu president Gregoire Kayibanda in a coup.

Mr. Habyarimana increased tensions by creating a sense of Hutu solidarity and bringing regional rivalries into Rwanda's politics.

At the same time he rejected suggestions that the Tutsi refugees should return to their homeland, saying Rwanda, the most densely populated country in Africa with about seven million people, had no room for them.

In 1990, rebels of the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) invaded northern Rwanda from neighbouring Uganda.

The invasion achieved great success, prompting Mr. Habyarimana to speed up political reforms to legalise opposition parties.

In 1993, a peace treaty was signed by Mr. Habyarimana and RPF leader Alexis Kanyangwe in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha to share power in Rwanda.

Mr. Habyarimana was assassinated on April 6, 1994, when his plane was shot out of the sky over the capital Kigali, killing all on board - including the president of Burundi, Cyprien Ntaryamira.

Who shot down the plane remains unclear but U.N. officials suspect Mr. Habyarimana's longtime presidential guard was behind it.

The Hutus blamed the RPF rebels for the assassination

— and the slaughter of Tutsi civilians began within an hour of the crash. Moderate members of the Hutu government were among the first to be killed.

In two months, up to a million ethnic Tutsi and moderate Hutus were killed in a frenzy.

Up to two million Tutsi refugees fled their homeland to neighbouring Zaire, Burundi and Tanzania after RPF rebels defeated the former Rwandan government army.

The RPF consolidated its hold on power and in July 1994 installed a new government with moderate Hutu politicians.

A cabinet reshuffle at the end of August 1995 kept the ethnic and political composition of the government, whose credibility depends on its ability to lure the refugees home.

## Nuclear test sparks protests

(Continued from page 1)

seized two Greenpeace ships and intercepted rubber rafts and divers who approached the atolls.

France has set off 205 nuclear blasts in the South Pacific and in Algeria since 1960, when then-President Charles de Gaulle brought the country into the atomic age.

France stopped atmospheric testing in 1974 and bored the test tunnels beneath Mururoa and nearby Fangataua, where it has conducted 138 underground blasts.

In the capital Canberra, several hundred people marched from the city centre to a demonstration outside the French embassy, while in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane protests were also held.

The British government, in a mild response, said it understood "the concern this has aroused in many countries. We note, however, the French commitment to a test ban treaty," adding "the French decision to conduct tests is a matter for the French."

The opposition Labour Party's defence spokesman David Clarke, however, condemned the test as a "deplorable act," which made "a mockery of international attempts to negotiate a comprehensive test ban treaty."

Germans on both sides of the political divide joined the

worldwide chorus, though Bonn's reaction was mild in comparison with several other European countries.

The conservative government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl refrained from condemning the resumption of the tests, but reiterated its disapproval.

The leader of the opposition Social Democrats, Rudolf Scharping, condemned both the French test and the continuation of Chinese tests and called on other German parties to respond with a common position to clearly tell Chirac: "We do not want this series of tests - break them off immediately."

New Zealand and Chile recalled their ambassadors from France and the tiny Pacific island of Nauru suspended diplomatic relations with Paris, calling the blast a "blatant example of French arrogance."

South Africa condemned the test with Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo saying Pretoria reaffirmed its "solidarity with the states in the South Pacific and will continue to support their strong opposition to the resumption of the French tests in their region."

Earlier the governments of Austria, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland slammed France for ignoring international protests and

said its tests undermined efforts to achieve an international test ban.

The Belgian government also said it "profoundly regrets" the resumption of nuclear testing, but a foreign ministry spokesman said no further official measures were planned.

Romania and Turkey also called for an end to the tests.

## NATO continues to hit Serbs

(Continued from page 1)

"This is the current policy. The commanders might decide otherwise if this situation continues and the weapons are still not moved, for example today," he added.

But despite the determination to press on with the current strategy, diplomats acknowledged it carried major risks: The provocation of intensified Bosnian Serb attacks on Sarajevo and other U.N. safe havens and lasting damage to the alliance's relationship with Russia.

"There are clearly risks but the feeling is that having got into this, we now have no option but to continue with it until (General Ratko) Mladic gives a clear signal that he is ready to withdraw his big guns from the exclusion zone," one NATO diplomat said after the ambassadors' regular Wednesday meeting here in Brussels.

Wednesday's council was the first chance the alliance's ruling body had to assess the impact of the new wave of attacks unleashed by NATO warplanes on Tuesday.

There was no indication the Serbs would comply with the demand to end the siege of Sarajevo, and U.N. officials speculated the lack of disarray in the Bosnian Serb leadership.

"We have plenty of targets, we have plenty of work left to do," Adm. Smith told a news conference in Naples, Italy.

Bosnian Serb police sources in Pale, just south-east of Sarajevo, confirmed the targets hit Wednesday were installations near military headquarters in Han Pijesak, 50 kilometres north-east of Sarajevo, and in Kalinovik, 40 kilometres south of Sarajevo.

Bosnian Serb military commander General Ratko Mladic, whose refusal to ease his grip on Sarajevo led to the

Philippine President Fidel Ramos called on Chirac to cancel his country's remaining nuclear tests as demonstrators in Manila set fire to a French flag outside the embassy.

Fijian opposition leaders condemned the test, although the government remained silent.

airstrikes, is from the Kalinovik area.

Later, the Bosnian Serb military reported raids on Foca, Nevesinje and Cajnice in southern Bosnia.

"We gather he's in a defiant mood," spokesman Ivanko said of Gen. Mladic. "But we hope this mood will change and he will start complying with our demands."

"Every day of NATO airstrikes means his army is being clobbered, and clobbered and clobbered. For this clobbering to stop, he has to remove the heavy weapons from around Sarajevo."

Mr. Ivanko said the United Nations had had no contact with Mr. Mladic, and added that there may be a split between the Bosnian Serb military and political leadership.

"There may be a certain disarray among the Bosnian Serbs and that is why orders coming from one end are not being followed through the other end," he said.

On Monday, a senior aide to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic basically accepted the U.N. demands, but hours later Gen. Mladic rejected them.

One Bosnian Serb source close to the Pale leadership reported late Tuesday that a serious split had arisen between Gen. Mladic on one side and Mr. Karadzic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on the other. That could signal a shift in the Serb power structure, since Gen. Mladic recently had been allied with the powerful Serbian president against Mr. Karadzic.

Mr. Karadzic, speaking on Cable News Network, denied there was a split between himself and Gen. Mladic. "Everything goes very well, all of my personal orders are carried out," he said. "Even personal relationships with Gen. Mladic have improved."

## Iraq reaches out to neighbours

(Continued from page 12)

several years once the U.N. embargo imposed on Baghdad after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait had been lifted, he reportedly told Mr. Ekeus when they met in Amman last month.

Mr. Pogrebenkov said "there is currently no military or technical cooperation (with Iraq) because of the U.N. sanctions."

But he did not rule out that Baghdad "could be interested" in purchasing Russian tanks, despite not having put in an order.

He said Gen. Kamel may have "given these figures to boost his own self-importance."

Four U.S. Navy warships are due on a port visit in Dubai on Thursday before carrying out operations in the Gulf, the U.S. embassy said.

USS New Orleans, Juneau, Comstock and Mount Vernon are part of an amphibious ready group which has completed a 10-day exercise with the Jordanian army, the Abu Dhabi based embassy said in a statement.

The USS New Orleans group, which includes 2,000 marines and a helicopter squadron, will spend several days in the Jabal Al port of Dubai before conducting operations in the Gulf.

"They are on two regularly scheduled deployments to the U.S. Fifth Fleet," according to the statement.

## U.S. invites

(Continued from page 1)

accusation against Syria is unfair," he said, following talks with Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam here.

Mr. Talabani said he would meet Iraqi opposition members based in Damascus as well as Syrian officials during his visit to "exchange ideas on the situation in Iraq and the Middle East."

He added he had not decided whether to accept an invitation to meet Iraq's former industry minister General Hussein Kamel, who defected to Amman on Aug. 8.

The PKK and the KDP are the two main Kurdish groups controlling northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

## Bomb kills 1

A car bomb attack killed at least one person and injured several others in the main town of Kurdish-held northern Iraq on Wednesday, Kurdish officials said.

The PUK said the bomb, made up of 15 kilograms of TNT, exploded outside one of its offices in the centre of Erbil.

The KDP joined in condemnation of the attack. There was no claim of responsibility.

Several residents of the town blamed the Turkish Kurd separatist PKK, which since late August has launched attacks on the KDP in areas on the border with Turkey.

## Indian killing shakes government image

By Paul Iredale

Reuters

NEW DELHI - The assassination of Punjab's chief minister has shaken the image of peace and stability that Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was preparing to use as a major plank of his election campaign, analysts said this week.

The bomb blast that killed chief minister Beant Singh and 15 members of his retinue will also have an impact on Mr. Rao's plans to hold polls in the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir in the run-up to the general election, they said.

"It is doubtful whether, after the assassination of Beant Singh on Thursday, the exponents of the 'elections in Kashmir theory' will be able to argue their point with as much conviction as they did before," the Economic Times said on Sunday.

The audacious attack in broad daylight on the steps of the Punjab government secretariat has stunned a nation enjoying a spell of relative tranquility after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and communal riots in the early part of the decade.

While few believe Mr. Singh's killing marks a full-scale return to the Punjab violence that claimed the lives of 20,000 people in the 1980s, it has dramatically refocused Indian attention on the problems of the Sikhs.

And as so often the case when India goes through a period of instability, it has led to a renewed bout of finger-pointing at its neighbour and arch-foe Pakistan.

"I can say without the fear of any contradiction that the ISI (Pakistan's inter-services intelligence) is behind the bomb blast," Indian Home Minister S.B. Chavan was quoted as telling the Economic Times.

Mr. Singh's appointment

as chief minister after elections in 1992 marked a turning point in Punjab's fortunes.

Although the vote ending six years of direct rule from New Delhi was widely boycotted, Mr. Singh, a Sikh from Mr. Rao's ruling Congress Party, was able to restore stability to the state.

Investment returned to the rich agricultural area, and its hard-working inhabitants appeared to be beginning to forget the bad days of the previous decade.

For Indian Prime Minister Rao, who faces general elections by next June with his party at a low ebb, born of support across the country following a series of state election reverses, Punjab was a major success story.

Mr. Rao had been hoping to repeat the prescription in Jammu and Kashmir, where a separatist insurgency that has claimed 20,000 lives since 1990 now appears to be on the wane.

A state election and the return of a civil administration on top of his success in Punjab and the gradually percolating benefits of his economic liberalisation, would provide a potent package for an electorate concerned about stability, Mr. Rao reasoned.

Mr. Singh's assassination has given him huge new problems.

It has robbed him of a key aide who could have been expected to ensure that most of Punjab's 13 parliamentary seats remained in the hands of Congress at the elections.

It has also highlighted the possibility that the return to normality in Punjab is only superficial.

"He (Mr. Rao) apparently believed that after the 1992 election, the Punjab problem was over. But the political roots of Punjab's disaffection remain deep," the Times of India said on Sunday.



# Economy

## Poor say social time bomb ticks in Beirut slums

BEIRUT (R) — In Beirut slums awash with sewage, poor people say a social time bomb is ticking as living conditions worsen despite the costly reconstruction drive following Lebanon's civil war.

Price rises and increased taxes are creating growing bitterness among the poor, who hoped billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri would bring prosperity when he launched his ambitious reconstruction programme in 1992.

"Life is very hard now, because of the high cost of living. My monthly salary of 300,000 (Lebanese) lira (\$185) is not enough for a child," said Hassan Hussein, a father of 10 who sells lottery tickets. "Prices should come down or half the people will starve."

"If the situation remains like this, I think the people will act," said Fatima, a 23-year-old schoolteacher, in the rundown Wadi Abu Jamil district near the war-shattered heart of Beirut.

Their remarks were echoed by other poor families interviewed by Reuters who say that July tax increases, including a 38 per cent rise in the price of petrol, are breaking their backs and must be scrapped.

Urging unions to press on with protest strikes and demonstrations begun in July, some slum dwellers said they would defy an official ban and join peaceful street protests.

Many political and religious figures say they fear social upheaval if Mr. Hariri does not change his economic policy.

They say the construction tycoon has forgotten the poor in his drive to rebuild Lebanon from the 1975-90 civil war and social tensions are mounting.

Reconstruction projects are visible all over Lebanon, stretching government resources to the limit, but that does not save the government from criticism.

"It is indecent to talk of progress in the reconstruction programme when the situation on the social front is deteriorating," parliament Speaker Nabih Berri said in August.

"We cannot give an image of prosperity when the Lebanese are living in misery," he told political and religious leaders.

## 'Poverty banks' aid poor women around the world

BEIJING (AFP) — The New York-based "Women's World Banking" (WWB) is a financial institution with a difference: It makes loans to the poorest women in the world, and it came to the fourth U.N. conference on women here to publicise their plight.

"This conference is a tremendous opportunity to focus on simple ways to help thousands of women in misery," said Nancy Barry, who worked for the World Bank for 15 years before becoming president of the WWB.

The platform to be adopted by the U.N. conference "underlines the importance of access to economic resources and economic independence," she said.

But the traditional banking system neglects women, especially poor women, she said. Women receive only 10 per cent of bank loans allocated worldwide. And for poor women, especially in regions where custom keeps them from owning property, they can't even get in the door.

It is for these women that the WWB exists. Over the past 20 years, it has made about 200,000 loans of around \$300 each to women in 40 countries. These small loans allow the recipients to create "micro-enterprises" in fields such as agriculture, handicrafts or trade, Ms. Barry said.

The WWB was created during the first U.N. conference on women in Mexico in 1976. Its funding comes from the governments of Canada, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States as well as from banks, U.S. foundations and corporations.

It works in tandem with similar non-profit enterprises around the world, including the celebrated Grameen Bank of Bangladesh, which has aided millions of families in that country and now concentrates its aid to women, saying they are the best agents for change.

Such "poverty banks" aid some 10 million people around the world, Ms. Barry said. Thirty-two of them are grouped in an International Coalition on Women and Credit and are here to advance their programmes. They hope to work with the non-

## Russia cuts tariffs, hits out of Gazprom

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has cut its tariffs on key exports but promised to swell state coffers by increasing the financial burden on natural gas giant Gazprom.

A government official said President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree backing a government decree to lower export tariffs by an average 30 per cent on goods from metals to machinery. The new rates, which have not been made public, took effect immediately.

The decree gives Russia's powerful fuel and energy ministry 10 days to prepare suggestions on lower tariffs on oil and gas exports — levies which bring in billions of dollars and help keep the spark of Russian reform alive.

First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais told reporters after a new conference that the measures were taken "to stop our exports declining significantly."

But the financial impact of the cuts were offset by a Chubais announcement that monopoly Gazprom, one of Russia's cash cows, would be hit with higher excise duties on gas extraction.

Gazprom is the world's largest — and some say richest — natural gas producer. "I would say 99.9 per cent of this story is a Gazprom story," said one Western economist. But he doubted that Mr. Chubais could carry the political clout to see Gazprom tax hikes through.

"It's never over here until it's over," he said. Mr. Chubais said the government had raised Gazprom's excise duties to 35 per cent from 25 per cent.

He also said a controversial Gazprom stabilisation fund — a Soviet-era leftover which allows the firm to hold hard currency export revenues tax-free — would have to pay taxes.

The economist said cancelling the fund's tax breaks could pump a whopping \$2 billion into budget coffers each year.

But he expressed doubt about the government's ability to take on Gazprom, one of Russia's most powerful companies.

Gazprom denies financial wrongdoing, but some analysts say the firm pays only about 50 per cent of the excise duties it should and only 70 per cent of the profits taxes it owes.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are anxious to get ahead much faster later today, and tonight you can start taking right steps in such direction.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) This is a good day to make a plan of action by which you can gain the personal wishes which mean so much to you.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get in touch with good pals and gain their support for whatever your aims may be. Then be alone and push your talents through.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You have excellent ideas for gaining much progress and for becoming successful in public life. Get in touch with big-wigs.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Plan some trip which can help to motivate you to greater accomplishment when you return, then tonight get into town and have fun.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Try to understand the other side of your mate's nature and gain greater happiness. Seek new interests tonight.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You can make new suggestions to associates which, coupled with their ideas, can bring greater success.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Use all those gadgets around you that can make tasks more efficient and easy. Get together partners this evening.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Plan to get into entertainments which you have not enjoyed before this, and then you can have a fine time.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You understand what should be completed to make your home more attractive and functional, so get busy.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Any data you have attained recently which can make more property-conscious and prosperous should now be put to use.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Study your monetary status today and do whatever will make it better since you have fine ideas.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A financial affair can be nicely settled early today, but later tonight take care not to get fooled or deceived.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Take treatments which will make you more charming this morning, and then go after some personal aim which means much to you.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Some special thought for one you like can bring happiness this morning. Later today get your duties handled intelligently.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Early work on some personal aim and gain it easily. Later today you may have difficulty with other goals.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get your duties handled as early as you can since later you duties to perform which are a little difficult.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Early get into that new interest which is inspiring to you and make much progress before you have to handle some blunt matter.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Handling a business affair early and wisely is easy this morning, but later today practical affairs are annoying to you.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Coming to an agreement with a partner early is wise, so don't delay doing so any longer, and save a worthwhile association.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Begin your tasks enthusiastically and get much accomplished since later today your motor runs down and you can do little.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Early this morning plan entertainment for later in the day since later tonight you may have a problem to contend with.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Handle that family affair early and quickly otherwise it could get worse later today. Get kin to understand your views.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You get a message this morning, that could be very pleasant for you, but later today you find it difficult to communicate with others.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

## Cuba passes new foreign investment law

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's national assembly Tuesday approved a new foreign investment law which the government said was intended to strengthen the island's socialist economic development, without leading to Western-style capitalism.

The law, passed unanimously by the assembly after a day and a half of debate, allows wholly foreign owned ventures in Cuban real estate and free trade and export manufacturing zones, all novelties in communist-ruled Cuba.

It also sets out guarantees for foreign investors and approval procedures that permit Cuba's government to carefully consider each investment proposal on a case-by-case basis.

Cuban President Fidel Castro, who participated extensively in the assembly debate, said the new investment law was part of an ongoing process of economic reforms whose intention was to improve the country's socialist system, not destroy it.

"We won't just be saving our socialism. We'll have a perfected socialism," President Castro told the parliament.

While the text of the legislation itself is relatively free of ideological language, the Cuban assembly passed a political statement accompanying the law which said Cuba's opening to foreign capital was "not inspired by neo-liberalism and did not aim at a transition to capitalism."

President Castro, in his remarks, made clear that the government did not intend to lose control of the economic reform process.

"Nothing is going to get out of hand. If we have to introduce more reforms, then we will, if we have to open up more, then we will, although I don't see any immediate need for that. What I do see is a need to consolidate and perfect what we're doing," he said.

As an example of what he intended to avoid, the Cuban leader indicated the example of Cuba's former Soviet Bloc allies in eastern Europe where he said the introduction of "perestroika" had ended up by destroying socialism there.

The new legislation, which is aimed at boosting the flow of foreign capital into Cuba's recession-hit economy.

Foreigners will, however, be specifically able to invest in business run by Cuban-armed forces, which, for example, already run a major tourist corporation.

After a heated debate on the issue, the assembly decided that Cubans living abroad should be allowed to invest in their country of origin, and this right is enshrined in the law.

Despite pressure from foreign businessmen to be allowed to directly and freely hire Cuban workers, the new legislation basically maintains an existing practice of using Cuban intermediary companies to employ local workers for foreign investment ventures.

While the law allowed for exceptions, President Castro and other senior officials argued that this formula would best protect Cuban workers from the "anarchy, disorganisation and privileges" of free, direct hiring by foreigners.

Mr. Castro told the assembly the government had been concerned to balance the need for the country to obtain more capital, technology and markets from abroad with a concern to maintain as much national control as possible over the country's wealth.

He warned the deputies not to expect the new law to immediately bring a "universal shower of convertible hard currency," not least because Cuba was still the target of a continuing U.S. economic embargo.

During the debate, the assembly heard that since the first foreign investment in Cuba, in tourism, in 1988, 212 ventures involving foreign capital had been created up until the end of July. The government puts the accumulated total of direct foreign investment in Cuba to date at just over \$2 billion.

## THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitten

**ACROSS**

- 1 Tannis great
- 5 Impediment
- 10 Nora's dog
- 14 Surlit
- 15 City on the Missouri
- 16 "— old cowhand..."
- 17 Tim Allen TV sitcom
- 20 Debutantes
- 21 Prostheses
- 22 Average grades
- 23 Hint
- 24 Plunder
- 26 Golf bag items
- 28 Oiler, e.g.
- 32 Shade tree
- 33 Air: pref.
- 34 In unison
- 35 Yale student
- 36 Awards
- 39 Delate
- 40 Fruit coverings
- 42 Break
- 43 B.P.O.E. member
- 44 Utah state flower
- 45 Belt location
- 47 Liquid measures: abbr.
- 48 Dock hoist
- 50 River in Spain
- 52 In an unsteady way
- 55 Flee: jml
- 57 Milt: jml
- 60 "— a song..."
- 61 Wed
- 62 Short note
- 63 Disorder
- 64 Car type
- 65 Quick: —br.

**DOWN**

- 1 Ger.
- 2 Boorish person
- 3 Gable/Tumer film
- 4 Grommel
- 5 Plot of land
- 6 Rascals
- 7 Sailor
- 8 Composer of etudes
- 9 Asylums
- 10 Without direction
- 11 Capt. Hook's aide
- 12 Strong flavor
- 13 Fornicary residents
- 18 — du Diable
- 19 Ornelet item
- 23 Hoffman/Lange film
- 24 Lascivious looks
- 25 Kula's friend
- 27 Rental abbr.
- 29 Couch potatoes
- 30 Everything included
- 31 — up
- 33 Not here: abbr.
- 34 Viper
- 37 Switch positions
- 38 American cool
- 41 Agendas
- 45 Marine mammal
- 46 No matter who
- 47 Type of bull
- 49 Discharge from the military
- 51 Engineer's deg.
- 52 Thin wedge
- 53 Pit
- 54 Iowa college town
- 55 — boy!
- 56 — mailer
- 58 Central
- 59 Cul off

## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff



## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GREBA  
YIRAH  
PECDIT  
PASCUM

Close the window, the bugs are getting in.

THIS MADE HER ITCH WHILE SHE DOODLED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Yesterday's Jumbles: SYLPH KNELL BRIDLE PELVIS  
Answer: Spring planting made him feel this — SEEDY





## Judge orders bank to pay compensation to client for poor advice

LONDON (AFP) — British banks were reeling Wednesday after a landmark court action ruled that Lloyds Bank must pay compensation to a couple for giving them negligent financial advice.

Julia Verity, 55, and her partner, Richard Spindler, 36, were awarded £77,529 (about \$120,000) compensation for imprudent advice from their bank manager at Lloyds.

The case centres on the couple's purchase of a house in 1988 for which they borrowed £150,000 (\$232,000). They intended to renovate the Victorian house before selling it at a profit.

But their dream ended in nightmare and the collapse of the housing market threw the couple into bankruptcy. Instead of the £160,000 they expected from the resale one year later, the couple received only £135,000 and had crippling interest repayments, as well.

They managed to convince the judge that their bank manager in Beaconsfield, a hundred kilometres west of London, had given them poor financial advice. Judge Taylor said: "The claimants' reliance on the advice caused loss of a kind that was reasonably foreseeable."

Consumer groups immediately called on other victims of alleged negligent advice to press claims and take them to court if need be.

The national coordinator of the Bank Action Group, Pat Griffiths, said: "This de-

## Egypt's image deters U.S. investors — envoy

CAIRO (R) — U.S. companies remain hesitant to invest in Egypt because of the poor image they have of the investment climate in the country, U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker told a meeting of businessmen.

The image is justified only in part and U.S. companies have successfully invested more than \$1 billion in Egypt, creating 250,000 jobs, he told the American Chamber of Commerce in a speech delivered Tuesday and made available Wednesday.

Mr. Walker compared Egypt unfavourably with other sites for investment, such as Israel, Indonesia, Tunisia, Chile and the United Arab Emirates, and cited horror stories about investors thwarted by bureaucracy and legal problems.

One unnamed company has spent two years trying to invest \$10 million in a new factory but a single division of one ministry has held the project up, apparently because it prefers to buy the same goods abroad from a longstanding supplier, he said.

One franchiser finds it takes an average of 56 days to clear its imports, compared with less than a week in Israel or Abu Dhabi, he added.

"The cost of these delays is forcing the company to scale back its plans," he said.

"Conflicting regulations, contradictory standards, unpredictable commercial courts, a bulky bureaucracy... and that's once you've got your foot in the door," he said.

Mr. Walker was speaking in advance of his trip this month to meet U.S. businessmen in five U.S. cities and present business opportunities in Egypt to them.

On the positive side, many businesses are doing well and the government says it is committed to change, he said.

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## KPC buys 300 Agip service stations in Italy

ROME (AFP) — The Kuwait Petroleum Company (KPC) has agreed to link up with Italian oil company Agip by buying half of a refinery in Sicily and 300 service stations controlled by the Italian firm, KPC said Wednesday.

The investment, costing about \$500 million, flowed from an increase of KPC's refining capacity, informed industrial sources said.

KPC, which is owned by the Kuwaiti oil-producing states, would acquire 1.5 per cent of the market for the distribution of fuel in Italy, KPC said, taking its total share from 10.4 per cent to about 12 per cent through 3,500 stations.

Until now Agip controlled 11,500 fuel outlets. Of these 7,500 were under the name of Agip and the rest of IP.

The refinery involved in the deal is at Milazzo in Sicily. It produces about 160,000 barrels of fuel per year.

Agip and KPC said in a joint statement recently that the refinery "situated at the centre of a strategic zone, the Mediterranean," would be improved to become one of the most competitive of its kind in Europe.

Experts hold that the refinery at Milazzo had too much capacity for the needs of Agip, and last year its output was restricted.



The Automotive and Spare Parts Technical Trading Co. held a reception at the Jordan Hotel Intercontinental Tuesday evening to mark the introduction of the new Cavalier Chevrolet into the Jordanian market.

The reception was attended by a group of invited guests interested in this type of car, including car agents in Jordan and owners of rent a car offices as well as businessmen, car dealers and others like members of diplomatic missions.

The 4-cylinder 2200cc. Cavalier Chevrolet is a family size car fitted with safety equipment and all means of comfort which won the admiration of the guests.

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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 06/09/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF	VALUE	PREV.	CLOSING
	SHARES	TRADED	CLOSING	PRICE
	TRADED	JD	PRICE	
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>				
ARAB BANK PLC	560	127610	228.250	228.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	6548	29452	4.480	4.500
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	380	1575	4.510	4.500
BANK OF JORDAN	99	332	3.400	3.400
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	2850	3906	1.160	1.150
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1700	4239	2.510	2.500
THE HOUSING BANK	1600	9115	5.690	5.700
JORDAN KIWIT BANK	472	1308	2.780	2.770
JORDAN GULF BANK	300	224	1.110	1.120
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1731	6255	3.740	3.730
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1280	5000	4.000	4.000
SEIT ELNAB SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	300	960	3.200	3.200
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	26800	26229	.990	.980
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4184	6489	1.550	1.500
<b>BANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>48644</b>	<b>222294</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 185.81</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.07%</b>
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>				
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	200	520	2.620	2.600
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 135.09</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.09%</b>
<b>SERVICE SECTOR</b>				
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	15550	24485	1.630	1.630
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	131	1087	8.300	0.300
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1150	6465	5.900	5.900
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	1150	3138	2.730	2.730
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	7300	15371	2.090	2.170
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	450	450	1.000	1.000
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	150	176	1.160	1.170
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	250	160	.610	.640
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODITY HOTELS	29600	60396	2.280	2.363
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1200	3804	3.190	3.170
ARKA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	7210	9650	1.350	1.350
<b>SERVICE SECTOR</b>	<b>64241</b>	<b>124181</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 127.13</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.07%</b>
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>				
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3006	11015	3.670	3.680
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	173	520	3.010	3.010
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1077	206	5.400	5.390
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4246	21322	5.030	5.040
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	3061	18051	5.910	5.900
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	286	1144	4.000	4.000
BATA INDUSTRIES	300	687	2.280	2.290
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	680	6597	7.500	7.500
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	2475	13502	5.460	5.450
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	216700	122017	5.540	.570
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	800	890	1.180	1.180
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	300	1307	4.310	4.310
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1200	2345	1.970	1.950
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	400	1763	4.450	4.250
ARAB CULTRON-CHEMICALS	750	1148	1.600	1.530
JORDAN SINTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	500	1085	2.170	2.170
KAWTHER INVESTMENT	800	1302	1.660	1.660
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	5100	16423	3.210	3.260
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	9600	19219	1.990	2.030
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	500	825	1.650	1.670
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	12523	17201	1.370	1.380
UNION CHEMICAL & FERTILIZABLE OIL INDUSTRY	192	593	2.070	2.060
<b>INDUSTRIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>267122</b>	<b>263516</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 126.41</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.08%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>380226</b>	<b>620598</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 185.43</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.07%</b>
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		145873		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		104326		



## Muster, Stich fall; Sabatini sweeps into semis

NEW YORK (R) — A pair of seeded men with formidable Grand Slam credentials were upset at the U.S. Open Tuesday by an American whose best days seemed to be behind him and a Zimbabwean avocado farmer's son leaving his best day.

Former world number one Jim Courier, who has been struggling and out of the top 10 for nearly two years, overpowered third-seeded French Open champion Thomas Muster 6-3, 6-0, 7-6 in a slugfest contested primarily from well behind the baseline.

"On good days, I'm much better than my ranking reflects," said the 15th-ranked Courier, a former two-time Australian and French Open champion.

Earlier, 70th-ranked Zimbabwean Byron Black with a furious comeback by eighth-seeded German Michael Stich to claim a quarter-final berth with a

shocking 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 victory.

Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion and last year's U.S. Open runner-up, had high hopes of making it back to the final this year.

Black, a native of Harare, Zimbabwe who learned to play barefoot on grass, has never won a singles title and had never been past the third round at a Grand Slam event.

"I think Harare is going to be pumped up, the parents are going to be pumped up at home," said the delighted Black, who next faces two-time Open champion Pete Sampras.

Second seed Sampras overpowered U.S. Davis Cup teammate Todd Martin, the 15th seed 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-1 in a night match.

Sampras, winner of six Grand Slam crowns, beat down the lean, 6-foot-6 (1.98 metres) Martin with powerful serves and aggressive shot-making from the baseline and

at the net.

Sampras fired his 18th ace to finish the two hour, 13 minute match.

"I didn't deal with his serve," said Martin, who had only three break point chances and came up empty each time. "It was a bit demoralising."

On the women's side, Stef-Graf and Gabriela Sabatini swept past outmatched American opponents without losing a set to make a date in the semifinals that will continue a rivalry started when both were playing junior tournaments.

The top-seeded Graf overwhelmed unseeded Amy Frazier 6-2, 6-3, and ninth seed Sabatini romped to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over 14th-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez, who had stunned defending champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the previous round.

Sabatini, the 1990 Open champion from Argentina, has not dropped a set in five wins here and will have to continue at that level to snap a seven-match losing skid against three-time Open champion Graf. The German leads their rivalry, 28-11.

The Muster-Courier match-up had held the promise of an exciting contest in a U.S. Open that has suffered from a dearth of drama in the men's competition thus far.

But Courier seemed to have more stog in his powerful groundstrokes and had the Austrian on his heels early.

From 5-3 in the first set, Courier went on a tear, feeling off seven games in a row to take a quick two-set lead.

"I just wasn't in the match the first two sets at all," said Muster, winner of 10 titles this year on clay. "I put everything in the first three matches and there was nothing left today."

Muster stopped the bleeding by holding serve to open the third set and played Courier close thereafter. But



Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina celebrates her victory over Mary Joe Fernandez to reach the U.S. Open semifinal (AFP photo)

the confident Courier was not about to let this one slip away, even after the set went to a tie-break.

"I feel pretty good going out against Thomas on any surface. It's power versus power," said Courier, who is now 4-0 against Muster in Grand Slam meetings.

In an all-American quarter-final Courier will take on the always dangerous Michael Chang.

The fifth-seeded Chang opened the day's play with a 6-2, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 win over 119th-ranked Australian Michael Tebbutt.

Stich appeared to have turned the tide after dropping the first two sets and it seemed like a matter of time before Black would collapse under the pressure.

"I got off to a really bad start, but from the third set on, I think I was in charge of the match," said the German serve and volleyer, who made 118 forays to the net, winning 77 of them.

Bot a couple of mistakes in the sixth game of the final set cost Stich dearly as Black broke for a 4-3 lead, then held his serve to go 5-2 up.

"I was too confident," admitted Stich. "I came to the net, had the volley on my racket, just didn't make it. You know, that is tennis."

Still, Black, who also upset ninth seed Thomas Enqvist in the second round, showed he had the mental toughness to close it out after Stich held for 5-3 and saved one match point in the final game.

"I should have won the match today and I gave it away in the fifth set," lamented the eighth seed.

"I think it was a very even match, but unfortunately am not in the next round."

## Christie wins, then rules out Atlanta

RIETI, Italy (AP) — British sprinter Linford Christie says he's made his mark and is unlikely to participate in the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta.

Christie, the 1992 Olympic champion and 1993 world champion at 100 metres, pulled away over the final 20 metres to capture the 100 metre dash Tuesday at the Rieti track and field meet.

Afterward, he told Italian Rai state television not to expect a defence of that Olympic title next year.

"I probably will not be competing in Atlanta. I think I'll not be there," he said. "I took some sweet revenge after the World Championships. I have nothing to show at 35, except that athletics can be fun."

Christie's bid to defend his title at the recent World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, was ended by a hamstring injury.

He clocked 10.20 seconds Tuesday under a steady downpour that forced cancellation of the men's pole vault and slowed times.

Australian Damien Marsh was second in 10.27.

World champion Michael Johnson was among those turning in impressive performances despite the conditions, winning the 200 in 20.09, the year's third-best time.

"It's a fast track and I could have clocked a faster time, but the weather was too bad," said the American, who won the 200 and 400 at Göteborg to complete an historic double.

Kenya's Moses Kiptanui won the men's 2-mile run, Algeria's Noureddine Morceli captured the 3,000 metres, and Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland won the women's mile, but all fell short in attempts to break world records in those events.

Morceli was four seconds under record pace at 1,500 metres, but slowed to a finishing time of 7:29.36 minutes, 4.25 seconds off his own mark.

Kiptanui ran 8:13.40, allowing Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie to retain his record of 8:07.46, while O'Sullivan used a strong final kick to overcome Jamaica's Yvonne Graham over the final 40 metres to clock 4:29.82, well off Romanian Paula Ivan's record of 4:15.61, which has stood since 1989.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Redondo prefers hair to soccer

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Real Madrid midfielder Fernando Redondo said Tuesday he had spurned an international call-up for Argentina because he refused to sacrifice his long blonde hair. Argentine coach Daniel Passarella, a strict disciplinarian, met with Redondo in Madrid and said only the star's shoulder-length hair was barring him from a comeback in upcoming friendlies against Spain and Colombia. "When we got to the subject of hair, I told him I wouldn't cut it because it is part of my personality," Redondo said in an interview with a local radio station. "I am a person and a player — but in that order." Passarella said last year he would ignore any player with long hair as it often impeded vision. Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta immediately cut off his locks, as did other hopefuls in the Argentine league. Redondo and striker Claudio Caniggia, who both refused to conform, were left out in the cold.

### Le Jingyi returns with a win

BEIJING (AFP) — China's world champion Le Jingyi bounced back with a convincing win in the national swimming championships from which China's team for the short course world championships in Rio de Janeiro in Nov. 30-Dec. 3 will be selected. Le took Tuesday's 100m final in Chengdu in 56.04sec, two seconds slower than her world record, but still impressive after her long absence from competitive swimming. The Shanghai teenager won four titles at last year's world championships in Rome. But she was a flop at the Asian Games in Hiroshima, making a false start in one final, and has not been seen while the swimming squad gets over its various drug scandals. Seven swimmers, including world champions Yang Aina and Lu Bin, failed drug tests in Hiroshima. Zhou Ming, coach to Yang and Le, was among those sanctioned later.

### Cantona given death threat

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United star Eric Cantona and his manager Alex Ferguson have been issued with a death threat which police are treating seriously. The threat came from a man claiming to be a Leeds United fan who said a group of the club's fans would be carrying weapons when Leeds play Manchester United at Elland Road on December 24. And in a call to Football Monthly magazine editor Tony Flood he warned: "If me and my mates can get to Cantona or Ferguson we'll kill the bastards." "We will give them hell when they come here. This is a serious threat. We're all carrying weapons and know how to use them."

### Goteborg punish crowd misbehaviour

NYON, Switzerland (AP) — Swedish soccer champion IFK Goteborg has been ordered to play its next European game 200 kilometres away from home after fans bit a linesman with coins, UEFA announced Tuesday. Soccer's European governing body also banned one player, Veselco Popovic of Yugoslavia's FC Obilic, for three years for spitting at a referee and another, Russia's Alexandre Rytchkov, for two years for violently pushing an official. The punishment against Goteborg comes after the Swedish team was knocked out of the Champions Cup by Poland's Legia Warsaw at its Ullevi Stadium August 23. Coins rained down onto the field and one of them hit a linesman, UEFA said. The club also was fined 11,000 Swiss francs (\$9,167) over the behaviour of the team during the 3-1 defeat.

### Graham decides against appeal

LONDON (AP) — Former Arsenal manager George Graham Tuesday said he was determined to return to soccer within a year after deciding not to appeal against his 12-month worldwide ban from the game. The English Football Association banned Graham earlier this year after an inquiry found him guilty of taking kickbacks from negotiating player transfers. Soccer's world body FIFA then extended the ban internationally. Graham said in a statement that he had three main reasons for deciding against an appeal. "I do not have a bottomless pocket to meet the costs of an appeal," the statement said. "Secondly I feel in my heart I would not get a fair hearing and lastly I want to get on with the rest of my life and put this episode behind me."

## Ski federation finalises 95-96 schedule

BERNE (AP) — The 1995-96 World Cup ski schedule will kick off in the United States to avoid the unpredictable European snow patterns that wreaked havoc with last season's calendar.

The final schedule announced Tuesday by the International Ski Federation moved the finals to Winter Olympic host Lillehammer. The northern Norwegian resort of Narvik originally was planned.

The ski federation, known by its French acronym FIS, said there would be a preliminary

men and women's giant slalom in Tignes, France, Nov. 11-12. The races will be held on a glacier 2,800 metres (9,240 feet) high.

The main races will start in Vail, Colorado, Nov. 16-19 with a slalom and giant slalom for the men, and slalom and Super-G for women.

There will be a total 12 events in North America before the circuit moves to Val D'Isere in France Dec. 6. By juggling the calendar, FIS hopes to avoid a repeat of last year's chaos.

The women's events,

which opened in North America, started off smoothly, but lack of snow in European resorts in December forced a whole series of men's races to be postponed.

The prestige World Alpine Ski Championships were also scrapped because of lack of snow in Sierra Nevada, Spain. That event is now due to be held in the same resort next Feb. 11-25.

Following the successful experiment last year with night-time competition — which is popular with sponsors because of bigger television audiences — there will be a floodlit men and women's slalom in Sestriere, Italy, Jan. 26 and 27.

There will be just two races — a men's downhill and Super-G in Nagano, Japan.

The World Cup finals wrap up the season for both women and men in Lillehammer March 4-10. The small Norwegian resort made its name by hosting the hugely successful 1994 winter Olympics.

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Syuro Black of Zimbabwe returns a shot to Michael Stich of Germany. Black won to reach the quarterfinals (AFP photo)



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## Ripken matches Gehrig's 2,130 game streak

BALTIMORE (R) — Baltimore Orioles star Cal Ripken equalled one of the most revered feats in American sports on Tuesday, playing in his 2,130th consecutive game to match the once-thought untouchable record of Lou Gehrig.

To thunderous cheers of a sell-out crowd at Camden Yards, the greying, 35-year-old shortstop became baseball's new iron man and a national hero by showing up to work as he has for every game in the last 13 years, since May 30, 1982.

And Ripken did more than just show up, getting three hits in five at-bats — a sixth-inning home run and two singles, one of them a bunting infield hit — as the Orioles shut out the California Angels 8-0.

The whole Orioles team contributed to the big night, totalling six home runs — including four in the second to tie a club record — as winning pitcher Scott Erickson gave up only three hits.

It was a prelude to Wednesday night when Ripken is due to get his all-time playing record.

In on-field ceremonies after the game, Ripken teasingly told the fans: "I don't know how everyone else feels, but I'm exhausted. I was even considering taking a couple of weeks off."

But after the crowd groaned, Ripken said with a smile: "You know I'll be here tomorrow."

The quiet Ripken received an ear-splitting, standing ovation when the game became official in the middle of the fifth inning, with even the opposing Angels joining the applause for his moment of glory.

As he always does, Ripken came to the job early, more than two hours before game time, to take the warmup exercises that have helped keep him in excellent shape for his gruelling endurance record.

Former Orioles manager Earl Weaver, who threw out the ceremonial first ball to Ripken and who was his manager when the streak started in 1982 said "it's just something fantastic, something that I don't think any generation will ever see again — a man playing 2,130 straight games."

Gehrig's record had stood for 56 years since he last played on April 30, 1939. He started his string in 1925.

Gehrig — the "Iron Horse" — saw his streak end at age 35, Ripken's age today, only because he was suffering the effects of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a devastating disease of the central nervous system now known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease."

In an age of greedy celebrity sports stars, Ripken appears a model player deserving of being linked with the revered Gehrig. He is a self-effacing, soft-spoken community leader

whose best-known commercial endorsement is for milk. And he is a great athlete.

At 6 feet, 4 inches (1.93 metres) and 220 pounds (100 kg), he is a superb fielder playing a position dominated by much smaller men. He was voted the American League rookie of the year in 1982 when his playing streak began, and has twice since won the league's Most Valuable Player award.

How big a feat is playing in every game — and in most cases, the whole game — for 13 years?

Since his streak began on May 30, 1982, ailments ranging from the flu to broken bones and torn muscles have put more than 3,700 of his hallplaying peers on the disabled list.

In that same period, the other Major League teams have used more than 500 shortstops, one of the most demanding and exhausting of baseball's fielding positions.

Both Gehrig and Ripken said they kept playing merely because they loved to play. In the hype accompanying Ripken, comparisons have been made between the two iron men of German ancestry.

But while Gehrig was a son of a dirt-poor German-born washerwoman and a sheetmetal worker, Ripken was born into baseball. A local Maryland boy, he is the son of Cal Ripken Sr., who spent 36 years in Orioles system as a Minor League manager and big league coach and manager until fired in 1992.

Gehrig made at most \$39,000 a year by some accounts. Ripken is said to make nearly \$7 million a year.

Ripken plays down any comparison to Gehrig.

"I'm aware I'm a pretty good ball player," he said in a television interview, adding, however, that "it's unfair to compare me to Gehrig because Gehrig is one of the great players who ever played and I'm not."

### Major League Results

#### American League

Boston	7	Oakland	4 (in 14)
Seattle	6	New York	5
Baltimore	8	California	0
Kansas City	9	Toronto	8 (in 10)
Cleveland	7	Milwaukee	3
Detroit	6	Minnesota	4
Chicago	2	Texas	1 (in 11)

#### National League

Atlanta	1	St. Louis	0
Houston	10	Cincinnati	1
Los Angeles	2	Philadelphia	1
New York	4	San Diego	0
San Francisco	9	Montreal	6

## Jalabert takes lead in tour of Spain

ALTO DEL NARANCO, Spao (AP) — Laurent Jalabert of France, riding for the Spanish team Once, won the third stage and took the overall lead Tuesday in the Tour of Spain cycling race, finishing the 206-km (128-mile) course in 5 hours, 2 minutes and 39 seconds.

Jalabert crossed the finish line alone, followed 10 seconds later by second-place finisher Spaniard Abraham Olano, riding for Mapei-GB.

Once team member Alex Zülle of Switzerland, also clocked 10 seconds behind, placed third.

With Tuesday's victory to give him an overall time of 17 hours, 6 minutes and 14 seconds, Jalabert jumped to the top of the overall standings from fifth place.

Olano, second overall, trails Jalabert by 8 seconds.

Monday's leader, Gianluca Pianegonda of Italy, riding for Folti, fell 17 seconds behind to fourth place in the overall standings. Also 17 seconds behind, in third place, is Swiss Once rider Alex Zülle.

Jalabert, a strong all-terrain rider, and other racers had a rainy, mountainous course along Spain's northern coast starting in Santander.

The stretch included third- and second-ranked mountain passes before ending with a class 1 climb up to Alto del Naranco.

The 3,750-km (2,325-mile), 21-stage race continues with a 164-km (101-mile) leg from Tapia de Casariego to La Coruna.

In their last game, a 1-1 tie

## McCall threatens to quit boxing

LONDON (R) — Ex-world heavyweight champion Oliver McCall has threatened to quit boxing in a dope testing row.

The American denied on Wednesday he had failed to take the necessary tests after his title fight with Briton Frank Bruno last week and said he would retire if a ban was not lifted.

On Tuesday, the World Boxing Council announced from their headquarters in Mexico City they had provisionally suspended McCall, saying he had refused to submit to obligatory anti-doping tests.

Buc McCall told Sky Television on Wednesday he had given a urine sample and had witnesses to prove it.

"I think they have got the wrong information," he added.

He also told BBC radio: "If they suspend me (permanently), I am officially retired. I've made enough money. I'm a rich man and I don't need this."

The WBC complained on Tuesday of a "serious lack of discipline" and said they were looking into the matter. The British Boxing Board of Control is also investigating.

McCall lost a unanimous 12-round decision to Bruno in front of a delirious crowd at Wembley on Saturday. It was the 33-year-old's first championship victory after three unsuccessful attempts.

McCall, who was at one time a sparring partner for the former undisputed world champion Mike Tyson, initially won the title from Briton Lennox Lewis last October.

## France struggling; Romania almost qualify

LONDON (AP) — There's the Channel Tunnel to help the people of France get to England. But the French soccer team is finding it tough getting across for next year's European Championships.

Memories of its disastrous failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup are still fresh as France goes into its last three European Championship games needing to win them all to make sure it makes it to England next year.

Seemingly certain to get to the World Cup, the French lost their last two home games to Israel and Bulgaria and were eliminated. It's a scenario that could happen again because their current form is far from impressive.

Although unbeaten in seven games, five have been tied.

With Romania virtually sure of qualifying as Group One leader, the French go into the game in Auxerre against Azerbaijan knowing that anything less than a victory could lose them second place.

A tough trip to Romania follows and then comes a final game the French fans may dread. At home to Israel again.

In their last game, a 1-1 tie

at home to Poland Aug. 16, the French squandered many goal chances. They now need a high-scoring victory over Azerbaijan, which is last of the six teams in the standings.

Yet coach Aime Jacquet, unable to call on suspended Eric Cantona and injured Jean-Pierre Papin, has relegated his team's most talented forward, David Ginola, to the bench.

suspension, will clinch qualification from Group One.

That would eliminate the Poles but Israel looks for an on-the-road victory over Slovakia to creep up on the French and threaten a final day upset.

Spain will clinch a place from Group Two if it wins at Cyprus and second place Denmark, the defending champion, tumbles in Belgium.

ers, goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, defender Roland Nilsson and forward Anders Limpar, all injured.

Key forward Martin Dahlin, who has suffered from injuries to both achilles tendons, will play with the help of painkilling injections.

The Swiss, who know that a tie will guarantee at least second place, won't have star forward Stephane Chapuisat

## European Championship Analysis

Ginola, who has made an impressive start for Newcastle, which tops the English standing, is replaced by Reynald Pedros.

The France-Azerbaijan game, played amid tight security after a series of terrorist bombings in Paris, is one of 21 qualifying games in the eight groups. Each group winner will advance, along with the best seven runners-up. That's why France is under so much pressure.

Should France lose to Azerbaijan, Romania, which goes to Poland without stars such as Gheorghe Hagi, Ilie Dumitrescu and Florin Radu, could be in trouble because of injury or

Unbeaten in seven games, Spain has 19 points while the Danes have 14 and the Belgians 11. Victories for both the Spaniards and Danes would mean both would be virtually sure to qualify, although Denmark could still finish top.

Sweden, which placed third at the World Cup last year, will be eliminated from the Europeans if it loses at home to Switzerland.

The Swedes, third in the Group Three standings, have lost three of their six games, including 4-2 to the Swiss last October. They also go into the game in Goteborg without three experienced play-

because of a long-term knee injury.

The surprise qualifier from this group could be second place Turkey, winner of three of its five games and hoping for a fourth at home to Hungary in Istanbul.

"I wish we could play this game right now," head coach Fatih Terim said two days before his team meets the Hungarians. "We feel like a bomb ready to explode."

Croatia, which is idle Wednesday, is favoured to qualify from Group four but still has second place Italy to play at home.



Jockeys Frankie Dettori (left) and Willie Carson get to grips with the country's smallest and Albion (left) and "Chico" a 20-year-old Falabella, in Ascot, for the launch of the Sept. 23-24 Ascot Festival (AFP photo)

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East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 7 2 8 2

♥ J

♦ 10 8 5 3 2

♣ A 2

WEST

♠ Q 10

♥ A 7 4 2

♦ A 8

♣ A J 6 4 3

Opening lead: A ♣

In some ways, good defense at the

bridge table is like being back in

grade school. The secret to winning

could be as simple as "Show and

Tell."

North's hand is a classic raise to

four spades—five trumps, a single-

ton and not strong enough to open

the bidding. South had nothing fur-

ther to add.

West elected to lead the ace of

hearts at trick one, and East con-

tributed the three. Afraid that a

club loser was going to go away on

the king of hearts, West shifted to

that suit. Declarer won in hand,

drew trumps and conceded two dis-

card tricks to land the game.

East missed a chance to direct

the defense. Since there was no way

the defenders could get a trick in

clubs even if West held the king,

East should have seized the oppor-

tunity presented by the singleton

heart on the table to steer West to

the winning line.

Under the ace of hearts East

should have jettisoned the queen,

asking for the higher of the remain-

ing nine suits. Similarly, a low heart

should ask for the lower suit and a

midlevel heart shows no prefer-

ence. West would have shifted to

ace of diamonds and another and,

after winning the king of diamonds,

a third round of the suit would have

promoted the setting trick in

trumps whether declarer ruffed

high or low.

Note that the only opportunity

for this suit-preference signal

occurs when dummy has a single-

ton in the suit led. At any other

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A low card is discouraging.

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# Iraq reaches out to neighbours

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq, striving to break loose from its political and economic isolation, is asking its neighbours help it fight crippling U.N. trade sanctions.

The government in Baghdad has made calls for normalisation of ties with former enemies — Syria and Iran — and has also asked Turkey to boost existing trade relations. The overtures come as its three neighbours prepare a meeting of foreign ministers in Iran due on Friday to discuss Iraq. Officials holding preparatory meetings talked of their "deep concern" over threats to Iraq's territorial integrity.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Sahaf surprised analysts and diplomats in Baghdad on Tuesday by praising President Hafez Al Assad of Syria for what he

termed his "balanced and positive" remarks on the defection to Jordan of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel.

Mr. Assad was quoted as saying the defection of President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law to Jordan last month was not as important as media reports had suggested. Gen. Kamel, the brains behind Iraq's military industries, has called for the overthrow of the Baghdad government.

Mr. Sahaf's statement front-paged Baghdad newspapers on Tuesday and was repeated several times by the country's state radio and television.

"That was the first positive reaction from Baghdad towards Assad since 1979," said an Arab diplomat. "Maybe the Iraqis think the

solution to their problem lies in drastic changes in the political alliances in the region." For the third day running, the official press urged Iraq to reconsider what it termed its hostile attitude towards Iraq "for the service of the Muslim peoples of the two countries."

"Today, Iran should prove its good intentions to establish good neighbourly relations with Iraq," said the English-language daily Baghdad Observer in an editorial.

Iraq is also seeking to improve ties with Turkey. The vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim, in remarks published on Wednesday, stressed "Iraq's desire to develop relations with our neighbour Turkey in a manner that will serve the interests of the two Muslim

countries." Iraq's ties with its neighbours are a highly complex web of interests, some of them conflicting with others.

Syria, Iran and Turkey routinely affirm their commitment to Iraq's territorial sovereignty and opposition to any foreign intervention in its internal affairs.

But they all host Iraqi opposition leaders too.

Syria and Iraq, both adherents of Baathist ideology, have long been locked in the bitter struggle of two splinter groups claiming to be the true heirs of the same revolutionary movement.

Shiite Iran has been historically linked to coreligionists in Iraq, where the key Shiite shrines of Najaf and Kerbala are located.

And Turkey has made two large-scale military incur-

sions into northern Iraq this year to chase down Turkish Kurd rebels.

Moscow denied Wednesday that Iraq had ordered 4,000 Russian tanks as claimed by General Kamel. "There has been no such official request from Iraq," a spokesman for the state-run Rosvooruzhenie company in charge of military exports said.

"To me, this figure seems enormous," Valeri Pogrebentsov said.

Gen. Kamel told U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus that Baghdad had ordered 4,000 modern tanks from Moscow, a Western diplomat in Amman said Tuesday.

Under the deal agreed a few months ago, the tanks would be delivered over

(Continued on page 7)

## Afghans raze Pakistani embassy in Kabul

KABUL (R) — At least 5,000 Afghan demonstrators attacked the Pakistani embassy in Kabul on Wednesday in protest at Islamabad's alleged support for the Islamic Taliban militia.

Witnesses said the Pakistani embassy was ablaze in four places and smoke was also seen rising from the adjacent British embassy compound, though it was not under direct attack.

It was not clear if several unidentified people lying near the embassy gate were dead or wounded.

One Pakistani embassy staffer was led away, limping and holding his head, apparently after being beaten up.

Armed Afghan security men and soldiers stood by and watched as the angry crowd attacked the embassy,

Some demonstrators surged into the compound, broke into buildings and set fires.

The protesters assaulted a Japanese television crew working for the United Nations and snatched the film from the camera of a Reuters photographer.

"This is a spontaneous expression of people's sentiments," said Aziz Morad, spokesman for Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani. "Our forces have been preventing people from breaking into the embassy grounds and we will send more troops."

He told reporters the government would provide security at the main United Nations compound in Kabul, which he said could also be a target for demonstrations.

The protesters had gathered in central Kabul ab-

out 10 a.m. (0530 GMT) before marching on the Pakistani embassy, in the former British embassy compound in northern Kabul.

"Death to Benazir, death to Leghari," they chanted, in reference to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Farouq Leghari.

In Islamabad, Foreign Ministry officials said they had no word on the embassy attack. British diplomats said they were trying to contact Afghan support staff at the British embassy in Kabul. No British diplomats are posted there.

Only a few countries, including Pakistan, Iran and Indonesia, have diplomats serving in their Kabul embassies.

It was the second attack on the Pakistani embassy in less

than two years. Afghan protesters sacked the mission in February 1994 to protest at the killing in Islamabad of three Afghan gunmen who had hijacked a school bus from Peshawar.

The Afghan government has formally accused Pakistan of aiding the Taliban movement, which captured the key Western city of Herat on Tuesday in a major blow to Mr. Rabbani (see page 2).

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed the charge and said Islamabad was neutral in the Afghan conflict.

Mr. Morad accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence network of funding the religiously-minded Taliban, who emerged from the obscurity of Koranic schools in Pakistan last year, with the

aim of opening a trade route to Central Asia through Afghanistan.

"The Taliban are Pakistan's proxy invading army," he said on Tuesday. "They are Taliban in name only."

Official Kabul Radio said Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafaie had sent a message to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali accusing Pakistan of "direct aggression."

Islamabad insists it has no favourites among the various Afghan guerrilla factions it supported during a 14-year-old war against a Soviet-backed regime in Kabul.

The loss of Herat was a major setback to Mr. Rabbani's government, whose allies had controlled the city since the collapse of a communist-led government in Kabul in April 1992.

## Islam treats men, women as equals -- Prince Basma

By Caroline Faraj  
Special to the Jordan Times

BEIJING — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said in a lecture Wednesday that Islam regards women as completely equal to men in all aspects and called for absolute equality among all people with no distinction based on sex, colour or race.

In the lecture entitled "Women and Development — An Islamic Perspective," the Princess said that the respective roles and social functions of both sexes are distributed between them in a manner that does not violate the equal status of men and women.

"No hint is given in the Koran to indicate any male superiority in punishment and reward, and the Koran addressed the human conscience regardless of gender," the Princess said.

"Islam has introduced many provisions that explicitly gave women their full rights of which they had previously been denied," she added.

In addition, Islam regulated the procedures of marriage as well as divorce and the spending of wealth, according to Princess Basma, who stressed also that Islam commanded men to treat women kindly and honour the institution of marriage. But, she said, if divorce becomes unavoidable, it should be carried out decently according to Koranic teachings.

In the lecture, attended by

several heads of women delegations to the World Conference on Women here, the Princess pointed to the women's contributions to social and political life in Islam. She said books of Sirah (the Prophet's biography) history and literature are full of examples where women personally participated in wars and in tending the sick and providing the troops with food and water.

Contrary to frequent stereotyping in motion pictures, television series and other forms of media, Islam does not regard females as a closed congregation of underprivileged harem, said Princess Basma.

Calling on men and women to work to rectify misconceptions and distortions of the role and status of women in Islam, the Princess said such efforts "are needed in order to enable Muslim women to take up their role in development, a role that was highly significant in the social, economic and cultural fields throughout the past decades of Muslim civilisation."

In reply to a question after the lecture, the Princess said that Jordan was a conservative society respecting religion and traditional custom and values.

The Jordanian family, she added, is the nucleus of society in which women like other societies in the developing world still face problems. But, she said, they are continually involved in programmes that help to improve their status at all levels.

## Bahrain government, opposition strike deal

NICOSIA (AFP) — Bahrain

is to release on Thursday almost 150 people held after anti-government demonstrations under a deal reached between the authorities and jailed Shiite opposition leaders, Bahraini lawyers said Wednesday.

About 150 prisoners were already freed on Aug. 16 several days after the deal was reached, and between 500 to 600 would be released in a final, third stage at the end of September, one of the lawyers told AFP in Nicosia by telephone.

Sources close to the opposition said under the deal they had agreed not to hold any demonstrations for two months. Troubles erupted in the Gulf archipelago in December, but have virtually died out since April. Lawyers said Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Khalifa Al Khalifa and the British advisor for security in Bahrain, Ian Henderson, took part in drawing up the deal along with five opposition leaders.

Leading opposition figures Abdel Wahab Hussein, who was arrested in April, would be among those freed on Thursday, they added.

He along with Abdul Amir Al Jamri, Hassan Mushayme, Hassan Sultan and Khalil Sultan had helped to secure the agreement. The last three were released in August, while Mr. Jamri is to

be freed in the third wave, the lawyer said.

Opposition sources said they had agreed to a two-month period of calm, without any demonstrations, during which the authorities would hold talks with Shiite and Sunni leaders on restoring the constitution.

Parliament has been suspended in the former British protectorate since 1975, and the unrest flared after the arrest of Shiite leaders calling for a restoration of parliamentary life. At least 12 died in a wave of violent protests.

The deal was cautiously welcomed by the London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement which said in a statement "the fate of previous accords with Al al-Khalifa government does not lend itself to optimism."

However, another opposition group, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB), said it was not bound by the accord. It urged Bahrainis to "continue their revolt until the legitimate demands of the Bahraini people are met."

The IFLB said in a statement that true dialogue was impossible in Bahrain "because it takes place under the shadow of bayonettes," and it voiced doubt whether Mr. Henderson and the government would stick to their side of the deal.

## PLO accuses Israel of massacring 450

EREZ (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) charged Wednesday

that Israeli troops massacred 450 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip during the 1956 Suez war and demanded an inquiry.

"Israel has to offer an explanation for the massacre committed in Khan Younes," Justice Minister Freih Abu Meddein said.

He was speaking to reporters after meeting Israel's Justice Minister David Libai at the Erez border crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

"Israeli soldiers gathered together 450 people and massacred them in the street. It was a war crime," he said.

Palestinian Attorney General Khaled Kidra, who attended the talks, said the killings took place between Nov. 6 and 8, 1956.

The Israeli army, backing British and French forces, went through the Gaza Strip, which was under Egyptian control, en route to the Sinai peninsula after Egypt's former President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal.

Revelations that Israeli forces massacred hundreds of Egyptians in 1956 and 1967 have led Cairo to demand a

full investigation.

"We have to get the same from Israel as the Egyptians," Mr. Abu Meddein said.

Israeli army chief-of-staff General Amnon Shahak insisted Tuesday that respect for prisoners of war (PoWs) was one of the guiding principles of the Jewish state's troops.

"Respect for prisoners is one of the overriding principles we have set ourselves, and any deviation from it must be considered as exceptional and unacceptable."

"For at least two decades, very precise standards of behaviour towards prisoners of war have been set, and every soldier in the Israeli army who does not respect them faces legal proceedings."

The army chief added: "These rules have been observed except in some rare, isolated cases which have been examined and judged."

Gen. Shahak said he had ordered special training programmes for behaviour towards PoWs to be distributed to his soldiers.

Around 900 Egyptian soldiers who had surrendered their arms in the 1956 Suez campaign and the June 1967 war were reportedly mas-



Spike Lee presents Clockers at Venice

Film Festival

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Spike Lee may conquer Venice the second time around. Clockers, Lee's searing portrait of New York street life, is a top candidate for the Golden Lion Award for best film he missed when he presented Mo' Better Blues at the Venice Film Festival three years ago. The "murder mystery to the sound of rap," as Lee called his latest film, won over movie-goers and film critics at an enthusiastic screening Tuesday.

In the fast-paced opening sequence, titles are presented over a series of stills recreating crime scene shots of murder victims, interspersed with graffiti murals commemorating the dead. "I wanted people to know straight away that we weren't dealing with cartoon movies," Lee said in an interview. The director, wearing a grey suit and tie, looked relaxed. "Maybe the fact that I've got married and now have a 9-month-old baby may have something to do with it," he said. Lee said he used images mimicking video games to show how such games can encourage violence in young people. Condemning the light-hearted use of violence and the easy good guy/bad guy characters in many movies, Lee said "America doesn't need any bombs — they have Hollywood. In Hollywood the heroes wear the white hats and the bad guys wear the black ones. I tried to give a view point that was closer to reality. My policeman has been on the streets 20 years and knows (the streets) as well as the guys he's fighting. He's not a hero. People aren't all good or all bad. It's not just drugies, pregnant girls. It's not as simple as that." Harvey Keitel is the street-wise, homicide detective relentlessly investigating a gunshot murder with his partner, played by John Turturro.

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